

Gulf Arabs inch towards Israel ahead of summit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab oil producers are gradually tearing down taboos in dealing with Israel ahead of a second landmark Middle East economic forum that seeks to chart a new economic map for the region under peace.

Nearly a year after the first Middle East economic summit was held in the Moroccan city of Casablanca, several Gulf and Israeli officials have met in public to discuss future relations while Qatar announced its willingness to supply natural gas to the Jewish state.

Oman this week went further by announcing an agreement with Israel to normalise trade links, effectively bypassing a long-standing Arab League decision to boycott Tel Aviv.

The Cairo-based League has relaxed the ban by allowing members to restore indirect economic links while stressing a removal of the direct ban hinged on reaching a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

The agreement to open trade representation offices in Tel Aviv and Muscat followed a meeting in New York between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, Yusuf Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah.

Mr. Peres also met Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jassim Al Thani in New York, where they discussed bilateral ties and the Middle East peace process.

Israel has eyed Qatar following the peace breakthrough in the Middle East given its vast gas reserves, the third largest in the world. It

was encouraged by Qatari statements that the Gulf states does not oppose selling gas to Israel.

"Yes, there are plans to sell gas to Israel. There is no problem once overall peace is established all tracks in the region," Qatari's new ruler, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, said last month.

Qatar and Oman make up the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) along with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The six members control nearly 45 per cent of the world's crude oil and 15 per cent of gas.

All of them have agreed to attend the economic summit in Amman this month and some of them have already prepared a list of projects. This is in contrast with their lukewarm participation in the Casablanca meeting.

More than 1,000 delegations from 60 countries are to attend the Amman summit for the Middle East and North Africa, supported by United States and Russia, the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process.

Qatar's government and private sector are presenting 20 ventures at the Oct. 29-31 conference while the UAE's free trade zone of Dubai is sending a 30-member delegation to explain investment opportunities.

GCC foreign ministers met in Riyadh last month and agreed to coordinate stands at the economic forum. Sheikh Mohammad Al Khalifa, of Bahrain said all member states were going to the meeting and would "work to ensure its success."

"Between the Casablanca and the Amman summits, there have been a lot of changes in the region. I think the first summit was not more than a get-together meeting, but it appears there will be real business at the next summit," said a senior GCC finance official, who requested anonymity.

"GCC states will be more involved in the discussions this time. We are not going to Amman out of courtesy but to do business like others. Gulf states believe they will benefit from any constructive forum of economic cooperation."

Apart from participating in lucrative ventures outside their region, GCC states could also attract foreign investment, which would help them acquire industrial technology needed for their attempts to lessen their reliance on oil.

The United States has indicated it plans to invest in new projects in the Gulf and other regions and would announce such projects in Amman.

"As far as the Amman conference is concerned, the U.S. administration has been tracking projects within the Gulf region, the Middle East and North Africa," said Richard Gannon, senior adviser at the Advocacy Centre, an export-promotion unit at the U.S. Commerce Department.

"We are identifying opportunities for American investment and engagements... in tourism, hotels, resort construction, infrastructure and other areas," he said in a statement, obtained from the U.S. embassy here.

Families of women detainees in Israeli jails wail in anguish

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Parents of Palestinian women jailed for attacks on Israelis are faced with frustrating delays, despite the promise of their daughters' release under the West Bank accord.

"It's Yasser Arafat's fault, he should have refused to sign the accord before the release of all the women," charged Mayo Abu Daho, whose 26-year-old daughter Rula is serving a 25-year jail sentence.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader signed the West Bank deal on Sept. 28 on the understanding that all 28 jailed women would go home.

But President Ezer Weizman, with support from Jewish families of victims of violence, has blocked the release because of his opposition to freeing Palestinians with Israeli blood on their hands.

The excitement which filled the Abu Daho home in the West Bank town of Ramallah last week has been replaced by disappointment and uncertainty.

"We decorated the house and stuck up posters of Rula everywhere thinking she was going to come home" on the day the accord was signed in Washington, said the 60-year-old mother.

Rula was found guilty in 1988 of involvement in the murder of a Jewish settler in the Obf City of East Jerusalem.

"I never knew she was so involved in the fight against Israel," said her mother, pointing to a photograph of

Rula which dominates the sitting room of the family home.

But the delay has come as no surprise to 31-year-old brother Bassam.

"You can never trust the occupation forces. I will only believe my sister is free on the day when I squeeze her in my arms," said Bassam, who himself has spent one-and-a-half years in Israeli jail.

A second home in the Ramallah is going through the same anguish.

Abir Al Wahidi, whose father Mohammad was at the Washington signing ceremony for the deal extending autonomy on the West Bank, was sentenced to 17 years for planning the murder of a settler in 1991.

The army destroyed the 26-year-old woman's home. "My daughter's orders came from Mr. Arafat and she now supports the peace process and must be released," insisted Mohammad Al Wahidi, a senior official in the PLO leader's Fateh faction.

Mayssan Al Wahidi, whose husband Mohammad also served two years in jail during the 1970s, works at the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs in Ramallah.

"My joy will be beyond description the day of Rula's release," she said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said a decision on when to start the releases, expected to cover some 1,300 Palestinians in all, will be taken after a parliamentary debate on the West Bank deal starting on Thursday.

Defence challenges British soldiers' arrest

LARNACA (R) — Three British soldiers charged with manslaughter in Cyprus were never legally arrested, the island's assizes court heard on Wednesday.

One of three lawyers representing defendants Justin Fowler, 27, Jeff Pernell, 23, and Alan Ford, 27, reiterated to the court in session at the fort town of Larnaca that none of the three were legally arrested by Cyprus police in the early morning hours of Sept. 13, 1994.

The soldiers were apprehended in connection with the disappearance of Danish tour guide Louise Jensen, 23. Her battered corpse was found off a beaten track at a village in the Famagusta district two days after she was reported missing.

The three soldiers have denied charges of abduction, conspiracy to rape and killing the woman after a drinking bout in the Ayia Napa holiday resort.

One prosecution witness, police Sergeant Costakis Panayiotou, told the court on Wednesday the three defendants were arrested for not displaying their identity cards to an officer who stopped their car. But he admitted he did not mention this to his superior officer.

"I wasn't asked... it was an omission," said Sgt. Panayiotou to questioning by defence lawyer Christos Pourgourides.



FOOD AID: Iraqi government employees receive food aid extended by the Red Crescent and Red Cross societies to poor families in Iraq to help them cope with the difficulties posed by the international sanctions imposed on their country following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 (AFP photo)

Ramos envoy to plead for condemned maid

MANILA (AFP) — President Fidel Ramos said Wednesday his special envoy is to fly to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Thursday to plead the case of convicted Filipino maid Sarah Balabagan.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Abdul Wahid Bidin, the country's first Muslim named to the high tribunal, has been tasked to help defence lawyers appeal against the death sentence on the 16-year-old Balabagan, Mr. Ramos said at a news conference.

Mr. Bidin will be assisted by two other Filipino Muslims, who are experts on Islamic law.

Mr. Ramos expressed thanks to a UAE appeals court for advancing the hearing of Ms. Balabagan's petition from Oct. 30 to Oct. 9.

Ms. Balabagan, daughter of an impoverished Muslim family in the southern Philippines, was sentenced to death last month for the 1994 killing of her employer, 70-year-old Mohammad Al Baloushi.

The girl's defence lawyers have argued that she killed her employer after he raped her. They say Ms. Balabagan is a minor, and had been convinced by her recruiting agent to write in forged papers she was 27 to evade Philippine laws against child labour.

The death sentence has sparked protests here reminiscent of the demonstrations that followed the March hanging of Filipina maid Flor Contemplacion in Singapore for a 1991 double murder many Filipinos think she did not commit.

Meanwhile, a coalition of 16 non-governmental organisations including Amnesty International said Wednesday it would launch month-long mass actions on Oct. 9 in front of the UAE embassy here to secure the release and repatriation of Ms. Balabagan.

Mr. Balabagan had earlier been sentenced to only seven years in jail in June and was even awarded damages for having been raped.

But UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan nullified that verdict without explanation and ordered a retrial which led to the death sentence.

Mr. Ramos has said he will personally seek clemency for Ms. Balabagan from the UAE leader if the courts

affirm the death penalty.

The president also said that aside from the Balabagan case, Mr. Bidin is authorised to plead the case of other Filipino contract workers there, including that of John Aquino, who has been sentenced to die by firing squad for killing Indian national in the UAE.

The departure of Ms. Balabagan's parents and youngest sister for Dubai scheduled on Wednesday was delayed because they were yet to be issued visas.

Manila has sponsored the trip for Karim and Bai Balabagan. They were to take with them a birth certificate proving that Sarah is only 16.

A senior UAE official said meanwhile Baloushi was sexually impotent.

Ibrahim Al Abid, head of the Information Ministry's external information department, said that a wife of Baloushi had divorced him two years ago on grounds he was no longer sexually potent.

"There is still a long time to go before the final sentence is ratified," Mr. Abid said, who accused the media of sensationalising the case.

"Two years ago Baloushi's Pakistani wife asked for a divorce on grounds he was impotent and the court granted it to her," he told the Associated Press.

Baloushi also had another wife, who died about five years ago.

Mr. Abid said that if Ms. Balabagan could prove she was a teenager, "it would be up to the court to use that as a cause for leniency."

Iran's help sought

Mr. Ramos said he also will seek Iran's help in fighting Muslim extremists in the Philippines during a visit by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here next week.

Mr. Ramos told the news conference that Mr. Rafsanjani will visit Manila from Oct. 8-10 and that discussions will include increased trade and economic cooperation such as greater access to oil and steel supplies from Tehran.

The Philippine president said he and Mr. Rafsanjani will tackle the problem of Muslim extremists in the south whom Mr. Ramos had linked earlier this year in international cells.

NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Africa, Oman establish diplomatic ties

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa and Oman established diplomatic relations for the first time on Wednesday, the two countries said in a joint statement. They said they "look forward to closer cooperation in order to serve the interests of both countries and their people." Oman is seeking to develop its small coal and gold mining industries, areas in which South Africa has established expertise. Oman mining officials said this week they were looking for buyers in South Africa and Japan for gold and copper mines due to be privatised later this year. South Africa has no domestic source of oil and currently relies on Iran for more than 90 per cent of its imports. South Africa has opened diplomatic relations with more than 60 countries since Nelson Mandela's inauguration in May last year as the first black president. Pretoria now has formal diplomatic relations with about 165 countries and has ambassadors in at least 90 countries.

UAE man seeks help in finding missing son in Bosnia

DUBAI (AFP) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) man on Wednesday appealed for help in finding his 20-year-old warrior son who went missing during fighting in Bosnia. Ibrahim Mohammad Ibrahim, who is blind and about 50 years old, said the mainly Muslim Bosnian government told him they had lost trace of his son Ayman two years ago because he had changed his name before joining its army. "My son's friends said he probably was taken prisoner by the Serbs during the fighting. I don't know if he was killed or if he's still living," he told newspapers here. Mr. Ibrahim said when his son was 14 he joined a UAE group urging Muslims to support their fellow Muslims in Afghanistan. "A year later he left for Afghanistan to fight against the Russians and communists where he stayed until Soviet troops withdrew," he added. When war broke and in the former Yugoslavia Ayman vowed to fight for the Muslims. "I did everything to prevent him from going. I even took his passport, but in vain," the father said. There have been several reports of Muslims from Arab and other countries fighting with Bosnian forces against the Serbs.

Simpson acquittal announced in mid-air

DUBAI (AFP) — Passengers on an Emirates airline flight from London to Dubai were informed of the acquittal of U.S. football legend O.J. Simpson. "O.J. is free," a steward told a group of passengers while the plane flew over Iran around 1810 GMT Tuesday, one hour after a jury in Los Angeles said they had acquitted Mr. Simpson of murdering his ex-wife and her friend. The pilots had received the news during radio contact with ground staff, the steward said. One passenger replied: "They were probably afraid of riots in Los Angeles." Police had been put on alert amid memories of the riots that swept parts of Los Angeles in 1992 after the acquittal of four white police officers in the videotaped beating of black motorist Rodney King.

10 UNIFIL soldiers injured in accident

TYRE (AP) — Ten Nepalese peacekeepers were injured Wednesday when their transport truck veered off a road in South Lebanon and overturned, a United Nations statement said. The statement by the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said the accident occurred on a winding road in the hills near the village of Hinnayah, headquarters of a 723-strong Nepalese contingent serving with UNIFIL. Five of the soldiers, including two in serious condition, were evacuated by UNIFIL helicopters to a field hospital in the coastal town of Naqoura on the Lebanese-Israeli border. The others suffered light injuries and were treated at the site, about eight kilometres southeast of the southernmost port city, said the statement. The 5,000-strong UNIFIL was dispatched to southern Lebanon in 1978 after a brief Israeli incursion into the region. A total of 204 UNIFIL peacekeepers have been killed, mostly in hostilities.

Pakistan shuts down university linked to Rabbani

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Pakistan has closed down an Afghan Islamic university alleged to have links with terrorists, a government official said.

The Da'wa-Tul-Jehad university in the northwestern town of Peshawar was run by Ittehad-e-Islami party of Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, a closed ally of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

"It was asked to pack up and move to (the Afghan capital) Kabul," a senior official in the Pakistani commissionerate for Afghan refugees said.

But the official denied the closure was linked to the current soured ties between the two countries after last month's sacking and burning of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul.

"It is an ongoing process. The official said, adding there was no justification for the university to continue in Pakistan in view of the international aid stoppage for Afghan refugees and the closure of the offices of Afghan guerrilla groups in Pakistan. "They should go to Kabul."

A student union at the Da'wa university said in a memorandum addressed to the United Nations that the closure was a violation of international humanitarian law and principles and asked it to urge Pakistan to review its decision.

Senior government officials said the process to close down the university had begun four months ago when its administration was given notices to pack up and shift to the Afghan capital.

The university was closed for three months of summer vacations in June but was not reopened.

Founded by Mr. Sayyaf in 1985, the all-male university had eight faculties and about 2,300 students, mostly Afghan but including about 100 Pakistanis in its medical and engineering faculties.

Recently, the university was taken over by Afghanistan's Ministry of Higher Education.

Militants kill trader in Egypt

ASSIUT (R) — Suspected Muslim militants shot dead a trader in southern Egypt when they opened fire at his car from a speeding motorcycle, security sources said on Wednesday.

They said Shaban Abdul Qasoud died instantly when the gunmen shot at him on Tuesday night as he was heading north for the town of Fashin, about 140 kilometres south of Cairo. The driver of the car was also wounded in the shooting.

The gunmen, thought to belong to the militant Gama Al Islamiya, escaped.

The Gama has fought a three year campaign of violence to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak, but most of its attacks are now confined to rural areas of southern Egypt.

The head of security in the southern province of Minya, which has been the focus of most of the recent violence, said on Wednesday more than 50 suspected militants had been rounded up in a security sweep on Tuesday.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

13:30 Iris — The Happy Professor
13:30 News — Sun Sam
13:30 My Secret Identity
14:00 NBA
15:00 The New Leave It to Beaver
15:15 Take Your Place
16:00 Doc White Heat
17:00 French programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Soccer Match
21:05 The New Avengers
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature Film: "Kindergarten Cop"
23:50 Drama — The Thorn Birds

PRAYER TIMES

04:11 Fajr
05:28 (Sunrise) Dhuhā
11:24 Dhuhā
14:46 'Asr
17:21 Maghrib
18:36 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Church of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 622826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 649332
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly on Thursday but remaining below average with winds easterly moderate to active. On Friday, temperatures are expected to rise slightly with moderate weather conditions prevailing during the day but cool at night. In Amman, it will be moderate with winds northerly moderate and some rain.

Min/Max temp. 11/27

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agaba 18/32

Discomfort 10/29

Jordan Valley 18/32

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 26 Agaba 30 Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Agaba 43 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wisam Hazin 779474
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 736011
Dr. Bilal Al Sayid 890280
Dr. Fakher Bulbul 663412
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmouni pharmacy 637660
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
AMMAN:
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Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 736011
Dr. Bilal Al Sayid 890280
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Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmouni pharmacy 637660
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef Harzallah 988070

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Roscoe Police 192 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 775121

Blood Bank 843402

Highway Police 896101

Traffic Police 896101

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (Directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Radio Jordan 773111

Water Authority 680100

Water Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 815615

QJ Flight Information 08-52300

RJ Flight Information 08-52300

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Akhtel Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmouni 664171/4

Shmouni Hospital 669131

University Hospital 848454

Al-Musader Hospital 667221/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666177/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26

Amn, Shmouni 89611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/20

Amal Hospital 607155

Home News

Pakistan shuts down university linked to Rabbani

ESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistan has closed down an Afghan Islamic university in the northwestern town of Peshawar, allegedly to have links to the Taliban, a government official said.

The Da'wa-Tul-Islam university in the northwestern town of Peshawar was run by the late Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, a senior official in the Pakistani intelligence community for Afghan issues said.

But the official denied the closure was linked to the current souring ties between the two countries after the month's sackings and burning of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul.

"It is an ongoing process," the official said, adding there was no justification for the university to continue its operations in view of the international aid stoppage for Afghan refugees and the closure of the offices of Afghan guerrilla groups in Pakistan.

A student union at the Da'wa university said a memorandum addressed to the United Nations that a closure was a violation of international humanitarian law and principles and urged Pakistan to reverse its decision.

Senior government officials said the process to shut down the university had begun four months ago when administration was given notices to pack up and shift the Afghan capital.

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The gunman thought he belonged to the militant Islamic group, escaped.

The Cairo has fought a three-year campaign of violence to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak, but most of the attacks are now confined to rural areas of southern Egypt.

The head of security in the southern province of Minia, which has been the focus of most of the recent violence, said on Wednesday that 50 suspected militants had been rounded up in a county sweep on Tuesday.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Wednesday chairs a board meeting of the Crown Prince Award at the Higher Council of Science and Technology (photo by Boghos)

Princess Sarvath chairs Crown Prince Award board meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Wednesday chaired a meeting of the board members of the Crown Prince Award at the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST).

At the meeting, which was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, His Majesty King Hussein's cultural secretary, board member Mohammad Hamdan said that the annual award, created by the HCST, will be dedicated to distinguished work in the field of science.

He said that the financial award, which could be won by individuals or institutions, serves as an incentive for creative work allocated through the annual budget of the HCST.



A health care worker at the Cerebral Palsy Foundation assists a child through special exercises (file photo)

Cerebral Palsy sponsored march takes off today

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) starts its annual week-long activities today (Thursday), with a sponsored march to be patronized by Her Majesty Queen Noor, according to CPF President Fakhri Bilbeisi.

The week-long activities come as part of National Cerebral Palsy Day which falls on the same day.

Mr. Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times Tuesday that activities will include televised educational programmes on children with cerebral palsy, a spastic paralysis from brain damage before or at birth.

Students from around the country will collect donations from individuals and organisations in their communities.

And lectures will be held to discuss the condition of cerebral palsy in Jordan.

According to Mr. Bilbeisi, activities will be conducted in six governorates, and the week's activities will culminate with a five-kilometre march starting from the foundation's premises on Mecca Street and ending at Al Ahli Club, nearby the Eighth Circle.

Mr. Bilbeisi said that the CPF treat 800 to 1,000 new cerebral palsy cases every year.

Since its inception in 1977, the CPF has offered treatment to thousands of children. The treatment is free of charge, he noted, and the annual marches are aimed at raising contributions for this humanitarian cause.

According to Mr. Bilbeisi, the CPF also contributes to spreading public awareness about cerebral palsy especially in schools and at health centres.

The CPF trains mothers of children with cerebral palsy on ways to help

relieve children from the discomforts of their disabilities and to train children in ways to help themselves, said Mr. Bilbeisi.

In 1983 the CPF started a workshop to manufacture wheelchairs, exercise pillows, braces and trays and other equipment which facilitates the daily needs and activities of these children, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Foundation specialists offer physiotherapy sessions, and children requiring further medical attention are referred to hospitals, said Mr. Bilbeisi.

Mr. Bilbeisi said that the CPF aims to reduce the incidence of cerebral palsy from five down to one per 1,000 births.

He said CPF centres in Amman, Irbid, Aqaba and Salt are funded by donations from benefactors and through contributions from the public.

Princess Basma praises scouts movement

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday chaired a meeting for the general assembly of the Jordanian Scouts and Girl Guides Association and paid tribute to the members of the Jordanian scouting movement and its leaders for their dedication, time and efforts to serve Jordanian society.

The Princess and association officials reviewed the financial and administrative reports of the association during the meeting and took part in a dialogue that focused on programmes and activities which were held in the past year as well as future plans of the association.

Speakers at the meeting underlined the need for a national Jordanian strategy on scouting and the need for starting work on building the permanent headquarters for the association.

Princess Basma distributed awards to several scouts and girl guides who contributed towards the charity campaign held annually during the holy month of Ramadan, under the auspices of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

Nearly 10,000 scout members take part in the annual charity campaign to collect donations for the needy.

Present at the meeting was Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat.

Princess receives Mrs. Karadayi

Also Wednesday Princess Basma received Mrs. Seren Karadayi, wife of Ismail Karadayi, Chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, at the headquarters of Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), a QAF statement said.

Mrs. Karadayi and her accompanying delegation were briefed on the sustainable development projects carried out by QAF through its network of over 45 community development centres throughout the Kingdom, the statement said.

Mrs. Karadayi was also briefed on the Jordanian participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women which took place in Beijing, last month, and the follow-up efforts resulting from it.

The Jordanian non-governmental and governmental delegations, led by Princess Basma, played a pivotal role in regional cooperation before and after the conference.

Discussions also centred on the role and status of Jordanian women and the role of the Jordanian National Committee for Women who formulated the Jordanian National Strategy for Women, the first of its kind in the region, according to the statement.

Princess Basma expressed the friendship and cooperation between Turkey and Jordan and specifically in the area of technical cooperation in various fields. She stated that in its initial stages, the QAF pottery projects had received assistance from Turkish women specialised in the field who helped QAF revive and develop this ancient craft, the statement said.

\$35m contract awarded for Aqaba power station works

AMMAN (J.T.) — A \$35 million contract to build the civil works for the second phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station was Wednesday awarded to the Consolidated Contracting Company (CCC) by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA).

Under the provisions of the contract the CCC will supply and install fuel tanks and construct all the necessary civil works for the project according to a JEA statement.

The statement said the entire project will cost \$185 million and entails the installation of two thermal power generating units each with a 130 megawatt capacity to boost electric power production for the southern regions of the Kingdom.

Last June the JEA announced it had secured \$160 million in foreign

loans to finance the expansion project.

The facility already has two similar 130 megawatt thermal generating units which went into operation in 1987.

The expansion project was shelved in 1990 when Jordan found commercial gas deposits at Rishah on the border with Iraq and used it to generate electricity.

But with the increase in demand on electric power the project was revived to meet projected requirements, according to JEA officials.

The second phase is expected to become operational in the third quarter of 1997, according to JEA officials Wednesday.

The agreement was signed in Amman by JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah and for the CCC by its manager,

Call the Jordan Times direct on: 684311 or 699634

'96 budget nears JD 1.7b, says finance committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's fiscal budget for 1996 will amount to nearly JD 1,700 million, with capital expenditures amounting to nearly JD 460 million, according to Hashem Dabbas, chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Finance Committee.

But the fiscal budget will show a deficit of around JD 200 million, he added.

Speaking after a meeting with Minister of Finance Basel Jaradneh, Dr. Dabbas said that his committee will spearhead efforts aimed at stemming public expenditure in the coming year.

The fiscal budget is expected to be presented to parliament before the end of the year to be debated and approved before it is endorsed by the Senate and a Royal Decree.

Referring to the package of economic laws endorsed by parliament in the extra-

ordinary session, which ended Sept. 18, Dr. Dabbas said that these laws will be instrumental in attracting foreign capital for investment in Jordan as they provide many incentives.

The law on sales tax will secure a total of JD 34 million annually for the state's treasury and this amount will make up for the decrease as a result of reductions in the new law on income tax, Dr. Dabbas said.

The new law in income tax provides for a reduction of taxes on individuals and firms for investment promotion purposes.

Parliament last month approved legislation to increase sales tax to ten per cent from 7 per cent on all imported and locally manufactured goods as well as services.

Also last month, parliament approved a key liberal



Hashem Dabbas

investment law lifting restrictions on foreign ownership. The lifting of restrictions is also aimed at enabling the country to attract foreign capital.



Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Wednesday meets with a visiting delegation representing the foreign press club of Cairo (Petra photo)

Rawabdeh reviews regional issues with visiting journalists

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan seeks inter-Arab reconciliation and is against intervention in Arab state affairs, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh said Wednesday.

Speaking at a meeting with a visiting delegation representing the foreign press club of Cairo, Mr. Rawabdeh stressed that Jordan has always been against attacks between Arab states and favours reconciliation through dialogue amongst countries of the region.

Meetings among Arab parties will be in favour of all Arab states and not for the benefit of one at the expense of others, he said.

In reference to the situation in Iraq, Mr. Rawabdeh said that Jordan was deeply concerned over the sufferings of the Iraqi people who face starvation and ill

health due to sanctions. But he stressed that Jordan will not interfere in the affairs of other Arab states just as it refuses to allow others to interfere in its own affairs.

What Jordan wants is to see the Iraqi people regaining their status in the region and living in peace, enjoying basic human dignity, freedom, political pluralism and democracy, Mr. Rawabdeh said.

Mr. Rawabdeh said Jordan seeks to establish comprehensive peace on all tracks. He said the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has allowed the Kingdom to regain its rights in land and water resources.

"We are currently seeking help from the world community to reap the benefits of peace through creating an opportune climate in the region for investments that would ensure stability and

progress for the people of the region, added Mr. Rawabdeh.

In answer to a question about the prospects of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, Mr. Rawabdeh said that Jordan supports the rights of the Palestinian people in establishing their own independent state on their Palestinian homeland and in securing Jerusalem as their capital.

When this has been achieved, the acting premier said, Jordan will be ready for any form of linkage that would safeguard the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian people.

Once a just and comprehensive peace has been achieved the countries of the region can embark on an era of cooperation in all fields, he said in reference to the prospects of a creation of a Middle East common market.

Police await autopsy results in Ghor Safi murder cases

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police are waiting for autopsy results in what they say are two murder cases in the Ghor Safi area.

A 10-year-old boy and an Egyptian national were found dead in areas of close proximity in this southern region of the Jordan Valley Monday, official sources said.

"At this time we cannot reveal any information about either crime until we receive autopsy results," a police official told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

"These are two sensitive cases since both crimes were committed in the same area," the official said without elaborating or say-

ing that the crimes may be connected.

The authorities first retrieved the body of Jamal Abu Zeinab, the Egyptian, from under a pile of vegetation in Al Sama' area Monday.

His body was dragged more than 100 metres to the site where it was found, sources said.

Preliminary investigations indicated that the victim received one blow to the head with an iron bar "which possibly caused his death."

An hour later, police retrieved the body of 10-year-old Hassan Mohammad, who had been reported missing since Sept. 29.

The boy's body was found buried near a deserted house and close to where

Mr. Abu Zeinab's body was found.

A preliminary examination of Hassan's body indicated that he might have been strangled to death and that there were signs that the child might have been sodomised, confirmed sources said.

Police officials would not say if they had apprehended any suspects in connection with the murders, saying that they were still investigating the incident.

Baby dies after drinking milk

Meanwhile, police laboratories Wednesday were testing samples of milk which may have been contaminated and caused the death of an infant on Tues-

day in an Amman kindergarten, according to Public Security Department (PSD) reports.

According to the report, a child care worker at the day care centre prepared a bottle of milk for six-month-old Yahya Imad.

After the baby drank the milk, the worker put him to sleep, the report said.

According to the PSD, the baby died in his sleep.

The report said that the substance with which the milk was prepared was brought by the child's mother.

Police said they were investigating the incident.

10-year-old drowns in canal

Earlier, on Tuesday, in Jerash, a 10-year-old child was killed in a swimming incident and her younger sister was listed in fair condition, according to police reports.

The report said that Amneh Abdullah drowned while swimming in a water canal close to her home.

Her three-year-old sister Ruqayah, was swimming with her but was rescued by bystanders.

According to the police, drowning incidents increased in the past two months.

Amneh became the sixth victim to die in a swimming accident since the start of September.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS	EXHIBITIONS
"El Discreto Encanto de la Burguesia" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman at 5.00pm.	"Painting and sculpture by Rafiq Lahham and Laith Al Turk at the Italian Language Centre Gallery, Shmeisani.
"El Greco" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, at 5.30pm.	"Photography exhibition "Islam in Spain" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman.
"The Curse of Frankenstein" at the American Centre at 5.00pm.	"Abstract art by the Syrian artist Mohammad Daghestani at the Phoenix Gallery.
	"Jordanian-Syrian-Turkish products at King Abdullah Gardens, Al Bassam Hall.
	* Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
	LECTURE
	* "Plant Life of the Petra Region" (joint slide-lecture) by Ms. Ingrid Kunne of the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6.30 p.m.
CONCERT	
"Folklore music by Anwar Abdul Wahab at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Gardens Street, Aqqad Complex at 7.30 pm.	

MARKET PRICES

Item	Price
Apples	200
Bananas	150
Carrots	100
Cauliflower	120
Cucumbers (large)	80
Cucumbers (small)	60
Eggplants	100
Garlic	120
Onions	100
Peppers (large)	120
Peppers (small)	80
Potatoes	100
Spinach	120
String Beans	100
Tomatoes	100

Top Kashmir Muslim militant killed

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Anti-Indian protests erupted in a town in northern Kashmir Wednesday following the killing of a top Kashmiri Muslim militant by Indian troops, police said.

Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, 28, a district commander of the pro-independence group the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), was killed in a gunbattle Wednesday in the town of Trehgam, police said.

A spokesman said the JKLF guerrilla "was killed in a shootout during a search operation" but residents alleged he died while in the custody of the security forces.

Police said hundreds of residents took to the streets of Trehgam, in Kupwara district near the border with Pakistan, following the killing chanting "we want freedom" and anti-Indian slogans.

Senior JKLF leaders, including acting Chairman Yasin Malik, rushed to the town following the death of Mr. Manzoor Bhat, the younger brother of one of the founders of the pro-independence group, Maqbool Bhat.

The Kashmir Valley was crippled meanwhile by a general strike called by Muslim separatist groups to denounce the alleged killings of suspected mili-

itants while in the custody of Indian troops, police and witnesses said.

Shops, government offices, banks and schools were closed in this Kashmir summer capital and private and public transport went off the roads.

The general strike was reportedly widely observed in other towns in the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley, where a Muslim separatist campaign has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

The Indian authorities stepped up security across the strife-torn valley to prevent anti-Indian protests during the strike.

The strike was called by

the Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen, or Muslim Brotherhood, to protest the alleged death of the chief commander of the group, Altaf Qureshi, while in the custody of Indian paramilitary troops two years ago.

Indian officials claimed Qureshi died in a shootout. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Muslim militants battling to end Indian rule over Kashmir, the only state in predominantly Hindu India with a Muslim majority.

Pakistan denies the charges but provides diplomatic support to what it describes as a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

S. Korea arrests 2 students after illegal visit to north

SEOUL (AP) — Two South Korean students returned Tuesday from an illegal 51-day visit to North Korea and were immediately arrested, government officials said.

The arrests of Chong Min-Ju, 22, and Lee Hye-Jong, 20, were expected to further heighten inter-Korea tensions, already high because of political and military tensions.

The two women were arrested immediately after they walked across the border at Panmunjom, a truce village and North-South contact point sitting astride the tense Korean border, officials said.

The two, carrying a flag with a blue Korean peninsula painted on it symbolising Korean unification, were seen off by 600 North Korean students and officials, said officials at the Agency for National Security Planning, the main government spy agency.

Almost simultaneously, along Highway 1 leading to Panmunjom, police hauled away about 40 students try-

ing to march to the border to welcome the two, the national news agency Yonhap said.

Later Tuesday, about 30 students were arrested in front of the intelligence agency's headquarters in southern Seoul during a rally protesting the arrests of Chong and Lee.

Officials have said the two students will be punished for violating a national security law which prohibits trips to North Korea, an enemy country, without prior government approval. Several prominent South Korean dissidents and student leaders have been arrested and punished with long prison terms for making unauthorized trips to the North.

In Seoul, about 800 students rallied to protest Tuesday's arrests. They demanded the national security law be abolished, saying the government abuses it to suppress movements calling for unification of the two Koreas.

Chong and Lee traveled to North Korea via Berlin and

Beijing on Aug. 14 to take part in a unification rally as representatives of Hanchongryon, a nationwide student organisation.

The two Koreans remain bitter enemies since their division at the end of World War II in 1945. They have never signed a peace treaty ending the 1950-53 Korean War.

In North Korea, Chong and Lee attended rallies urging Korean unification, met Communist leaders and laid flowers before the statue of late North Korean President Kim Il Sung.

The Communist North does not recognise the South, calling it a "U.S. puppet." While shunning official dialogue with Seoul, North Korea has been inviting South Korean dissidents to discuss unification.

The Koreans have also held talks on increasing the 150,000 tons of rice aid South Korea has already promised the North. Most of it has been delivered.

7th man held after alleged coup bid in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN (AFP) — Security forces in Sierra Leone have detained a seventh army officer in connection with a reported failed coup against the military government but an eighth is still at large, the radio said Wednesday.

No details were given of the capture late Tuesday of Lieutenant Ina Samu who has joined other suspects — a major, two captains and three lieutenants — in a maximum security prison in Freetown.

They are officially accused of "plotting to overthrow" the military government of Captain Valentine Strasser in order to "stop the ongoing democratisation process".

If genuine, the coup attempt would be the second since Capt. Strasser himself seized power in a 1992 military coup, toppling the regime of Joseph Momoh, now living in exile in Conakry (Guinea).

An eighth military suspect was named as Lieutenant Kanja Sandy, who is still at large, according to Major Karefa Kargbo, the director of defence information.

The purported coup attempt did little to disrupt life in Freetown, the nation's capital, with shops, markets and schools remaining open. There have been no reports of troop movements in the interior of the country.

A battalion commander stationed in the southern town of Bo told AFP "soldiers remain in the front-line of war areas".

Prison sources said Wednesday that investigators had already begun taking statements from the detained men to ascertain their degree of involvement in the allegedly conspiracy.

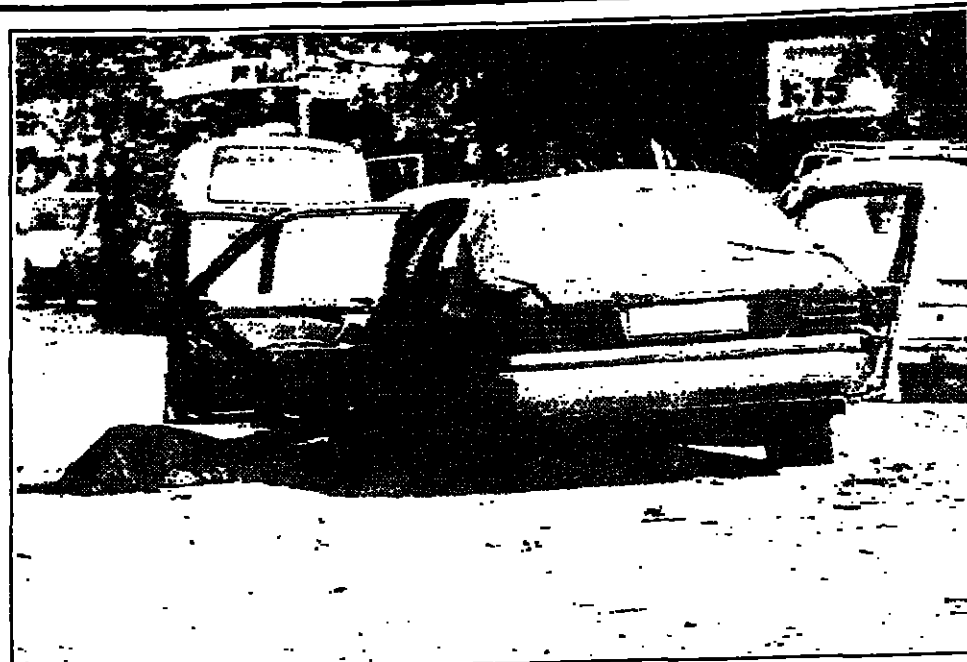
Details of the detained men's plans — and to what extent they were put into action — are not yet known.

The government has nevertheless said that "all concerned shall soon face a military court martial for treason." If found guilty they face the death penalty.

In the view of some analysts here, the supposed conspiracy reflects a split in the military about the return to civilian government announced for February 1996.

Others say it translates dissatisfaction over the slow pace of the war against rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), now almost four years old.

One diplomat here said both interpretations were possible. He said it "remains a remote possibility" that the detained officers were connected with the RUF.



The body of the killed driver is covered up beside the shattered remains of the car of Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov after a bomb detonated in central Skopje, seriously injuring the president (AFP photo)

Macedonian president remains in intensive care after car bomb

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP) — President Kiro Gligorov, who led Macedonia to an uncertain independence four years ago, lay in intensive care Wednesday following hours of neurosurgery to remove shrapnel lodged in his head by a deadly car bomb.

Mr. Gligorov, 78, lost his right eye in the blast Tuesday, said Sasa Ordanoski, director of

Macedonian TV. Three pieces of shrapnel were removed from the president's head in hours of surgery Tuesday, said a hospital source.

Officials who clamped tight security on the hospital maintained a line of cautious optimism. But doctors noted that any head injury to a man of Mr. Gligorov's age would be serious. Another operation was like-

ly as surgeons from France, Yugoslavia, Greece and the United States — including the only U.S. Navy neurosurgeon in Europe — descended on Skopje to help.

The attempted assassination threatens to destabilise one of the traditional tinderboxes of the volatile Balkans just as it appeared on the brink of a more stable future.

Japan cult guru confesses all

Tokyo (AP) — The doomsday cult guru charged with murder in the nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subway has confessed to the crime and other murders, Japan's public television network NHK said Wednesday.

"In each case I gave the order and group leaders carried it out," NHK quoted Shoko Asahara as telling investigators.

A police spokesman said no announcement has been made and refused further comment. A spokesman for the Aum Shinri Kyo cult had no comment.

Previously, Asahara had denied involvement in the March 20 subway attack, reportedly asking his interrogators how a blind man such as himself could be involved in such a crime.

Asahara, 40, goes on trial Oct. 26, and legal specialists have said the court process could take a decade or more if Asahara insists on his innocence.

Japanese prosecutors, who tend to rely heavily on confessions in building criminal cases, had reportedly been frustrated by Asahara's refusal to answer questions.

Asahara has been charged

with murder in the subway attack, which killed 12 people and sickened more than 5,500 others, and a nerve gas attack in central Japan last year that killed seven people.

He is also accused of directing the 1989 murder of an anti-Aum lawyer and his family, as well as the murder this February of a man who was helping his younger sister quit the cult.

The NHK report did not give further details of Asahara's reported confession.

Asahara has predicted an apocalypse that only members of Aum Shinri Kyo will survive.

While most of the cult's leaders are in jail, seven fugitive members are being sought on suspicion of involvement in the subway attack and other crimes.

Cult spokesman Fumihiko Joju prior to the NHK report that Asahara had Wednesday asked the fugitives to turn themselves in to police "considering the situation."

Authorities have been considering applying a seldom-used law against government subversion in order to suppress the cult.

Reports Wednesday said police were also evaluating sodium cyanide found at the abandoned mountain campsite of one of the fugitives, Satoru Hirata, to determine if it matches sodium cyanide used in an attempted gas attack May 6 in one of Tokyo's busiest train stations.

A burning bag of the chemical was doused before its fumes could combine with an adjacent bag of chemicals and release enough cyanide gas to kill thousands.

Some fear that the fugitives may attempt similar attacks when Asahara's trial begins.

NHK quoted Asahara's lawyer as saying that the guru may have decided to start talking as a way of preventing the government from disbanding the cult and seizing its assets.

A cult statement Wednesday, apparently responding to reports the cult is trying to transfer assets to a related company, said the cult simply is asking government authorities to manage some of its buildings because of worries of local residents.

Clinton, Powell rise in U.S. polls

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton's standing in national surveys is improving as the debate between Republicans and Democrats over social programmes intensifies.

Retired Gen. Colin Powell remains a strong wild card as a potential addition to the 1996 presidential race.

Two new polls show Mr. Clinton has widened his lead over the Republican presidential front-runner, Senate majority leader Bob Dole while the president and Gen. Powell run closely together ahead of Sen. Dole in a hypothetical three-way matchup with Gen. Powell as an independent.

A Harris poll conducted on Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 among 1,005 adults found that when asked whom they would back if the election

were today, 42 per cent said Mr. Clinton and 30 per cent said Sen. Dole in a two-way race.

A month ago, Mr. Clinton led Sen. Dole by only 39 to 37 per cent.

With Gen. Powell included as an independent, the results were Mr. Clinton and Gen. Powell, 30 per cent each, leading Sen. Dole at 20 per cent.

Gen. Powell, engaged in high-publicity book tour, picked up 5 per cent in the last month, while Mr. Clinton and Sen. Dole stood at 29 per cent and 26 per cent, respectively, in the three-way matchup a month ago.

Gen. Powell, who is considering a Republican or independent bid, pulls equally from those who voted Republican and

Democratic in 1992, but gets more of his support, 43 per cent, from those who supported billionaire Ross Perot's independent candidacy that year.

In a three-way race including an unnamed candidate from Mr. Perot's new Independence Party, Mr. Clinton had 36 per cent, Sen. Dole 25 per cent and the Independent 19 per cent. The margin of error was plus or minus at least 3 percentage points.

A Washington Post-ABC News telephone poll of 1,530 people over the same time period also showed Mr. Clinton gaining strength.

He bested Sen. Dole 52 per cent to 42 per cent, up from a July survey that showed Mr. Clinton enjoying only a slight edge.

U.N. conference urged to ban lasers

VIENNA (R) — Portable laser weapons designed to strike an enemy with a silent, invisible beam are often depicted as a mainstay of the high-tech armories used in scores of futuristic movies.

But these images have now reached the clipboards of real life military planners and pressure groups fighting for such weapons to be banned have brought their campaign to a U.N.-sponsored conference on inhumane weapons currently under way in Vienna.

Lasers which can blind a human being already exist and are not at present illegal under international law. "Using blinding laser weapons is an unacceptable way to wage war," Ann Peters of the Washington-based lobby group Human Rights Watch told Reuters on Wednesday.

"Their use, production and transfer must be outlawed before they open an ugly new chapter in warfare," she added. Human rights watch has identified 10 different blinding laser weapons pro-

grammes being developed by the United States, code-named the Laser Countermeasure System (LCMS).

The British defence journal, Jane's Defence Weekly, reported that China displayed a "laser interference device" at defence exhibitions in the Philippines and Abu Dhabi in March.

Sales literature openly stated that one of the major applications of the weapon was to "injure or dizzy" targeted individuals.

Russia, France, Britain, Germany and Israel also are developing laser weapons, Jane's said.

"The military say the purpose of these weapons is to counter battlefield surveillance and would be used only to disrupt optical and electro-optical devices, such as binoculars, gunners' sights and infrared sensors," Ms. Peters said.

The LCMS, some the size of an old box camera, can be mounted on an M-16 rifle and can fire a beam powerful enough to burn out the human retina from a distance of up to 1,000

metres, Human Rights Watch said in a report.

"There is no protection for someone using binoculars and the laser will blind the person behind the binoculars before it destroys the optical," Ms. Peters said.

Five of the U.S. tactical laser weapons have reached prototype form. One of them known as Dazer is considered the most dangerous and has been described as "hazardous to the eyes and skin" and "at peak power...voltage is lethal", the Human Rights Watch report said.

Campaigners argue that they have nothing against laser devices designed for detection and targeting as they can often help pinpoint military targets and avoid civilian centres.

Although the focus of the U.N. conference is on curbing the use of land mines, Human Rights Watch backed by other groups such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and Save the Children is urging delegates to block development of all laser devices which can blind.

Ruby packing her trunk for Oklahoma; plan is to get pregnant

PHOENIX (AP) — Ruby the pachyderm is putting her painting career on hold while she tries to get pregnant. The 22-year-old Asian elephant, whose paintings have raised about \$450,000 for the Phoenix Zoo, is headed to Oklahoma for an 18-month courtship with Sneezy, a 23-year-old Asian elephant at the Tulsa Zoo. From doodling in the sand with her trunk, she developed a knack for applying paint to canvas with a brush held in her trunk. Sneezy will be her first mate, and Ruby's keepers in Phoenix hope she will return pregnant.

An international team of biologists working to save Ruby's endangered species from extinction picked her as one of the best-suited Asian elephants in North America to reproduce. North American zoos have about 150 Asian elephants. About 40,000 of the animals survive in Asia, but some experts predict the elephants may be extinct in the wild within 20 years, largely from loss of habitat as forests are converted to cropland. Born in Thailand, Ruby has lived in Phoenix since she was 7 months old.

Woman accused of killing and eating husband

MOSCOW (AP) — Police arrested a 76-year-old Russian woman on suspicion of killing her husband, then eating and canning his remains, officials said. Neighbours found the corpse of Nikolai Dalonov, 83, on the stairs near the couple's apartment in Kaliningrad, a city just outside Moscow. "The shocked neighbours nearly died when they saw that the body was a half-skeleton," said Alexander Alexeyev, spokesman for Moscow regional police. A search in the Dalonov's refrigerator revealed cans of human remains, Mr. Alexeyev said. Yelena Dalonova was taken to a psychiatric clinic for examination. A criminal investigation is underway.

"Coffeshops" may be on the way out in Iran

TEHRAN (R) — Iranians who want a cup of java may soon have to meet somewhere other than in a coffeshop. Iran's parliament gave preliminary approval Tuesday to a bill that may end up banning English words such as coffeshop, fax and mobile telephone in private or official business. "The rich Islamic culture requires that we resist all manifestations of Western culture," Fatemeh Homayoun Moqaddam, one of nine female deputies in the 270-seat parliament, said in support of the bill during a debate broadcast on Tehran Radio. "The ban is essential for the independence and identity of the country," another deputy said.

Pavarotti's wife denies divorce imminent

MODENA, Italy (R) — The wife of opera superstar Luciano Pavarotti denied the couple was divorcing and rejected as "absurd" media reports she was seeking 80 per cent of his wealth. "For those who know the truth, it gives a sense of deep bitterness to see written and to hear, also on national television, totally false news," Adua Veroni Pavarotti said in a statement released by her attorney. The heavyweight singer last week denied Italian media reports he was close to a divorce because of a romantic involvement with his 29-year-old secretary, Nicoletta Mantovani. He said the stories were false and denied a "family crisis".

Floods submerge another town in Bangladesh; death toll rises to 141

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — The Brahmaputra River burst its banks at many places and flooded large parts of a northwestern town Wednesday, bringing in its wake more deaths and disease, officials said. Dozens of people have died in the floods that swept across 15 districts in Bangladesh following heavy monsoon rains. Millions of people are

marooned and confined to their houses or are taking shelter on trees and river embankments, according to officials and media reports.

Newspapers reported that 12 people died Tuesday in two northern districts, taking the toll to 141.

On Wednesday, the swirling waters inundated most of Naogaon town, 190 kilometres northwest of the capital, an official said.

Schools, colleges and offices in the town were closed Wednesday to house thousands of homeless people, said Abdul Rahim, a district official at Naogaon. Mr. Abdul Rahim said there was no diarrheal disease in the camps but said shortage of pure drinking water in the flood-hit areas could cause an outbreak.

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No room for settlers

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin's defiant mood against American Jews opposed to his peace moves with the Palestinian side did not come out from a vacuum. It is well-known that Israeli hardliners and extremists have been busy recruiting supporters from the diaspora, especially in the U.S., who have succeeded to win over some U.S. congressmen in their efforts to torpedo the Oslo I and II accords with the PLO on one pretext or another.

On the one hand Rabin has some U.S. rabbis whom he likened to Iran's "ayatollahs" after they called on Israeli soldiers to refuse orders to evacuate army bases in the West Bank; and, on the other hand, he has American "fringe groups" which have been acting on instructions from the anti-Rabin groups in Israel to undermine the peace agreements with the Palestinians. These alliances between the far right factions in the Israeli body politic and like-minded North American Jews spell trouble not only for the Labour government but also for the entire peace process.

In essence what the anti-peace activists want is to see Israel cling to every inch of the West Bank and make it de facto, an Israeli territory. There is a certain Jewish group whom Rabin has rightly labelled as "loathsome," which is busy lobbying in Washington against giving aid or grants to the cash-strapped Palestinian self-rule authority. It strikes us as absurd to refuse support for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) at a time when much is expected from it to contain violence and reverse the tide of despair among Palestinians. Surely the extremists and the fundamentalists within the Israeli and Jewish ranks know that the stability, security and prosperity of the areas under Palestinian control would be translated into greater security, stability and prosperity for the Israeli people themselves at the end of the day. And that is precisely why they are opposed to giving them up and losing themselves and ideology in the process.

The settlers must be served with notice that we in Jordan are solidly behind the peace accords between Israel and the PNA. This easily explains why His Majesty King Hussein went to Washington to sign and witness the latest peace agreement for expanding Palestinian autonomy. The hundred or so Jewish settlers who illegally crossed the border Monday to express their opposition to the Taba agreement were not about to find comfort in Jordan because what they stood for was unacceptable to the people and government of this country and to its best interests.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING on the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya a writer in Al Ra'i said that the Libyans seem to be taking revenge on the Palestinians for the continued U.N. sanctions on Tripoli for its alleged involvement in downing a Pan American plane. Mahmoud Rimawi said that there can be no justification for the Libyan authorities to deport people who have lived and worked in the country for many years for no sin they committed except that they chose an Arab and Muslim country to seek employment and improve their living conditions. No justification or falsehood or claim can convince a person in his right state of mind that the Palestinians are leaving the country of their own free will, especially after they have heard Muammar Qadhafi ordering them to be deported and urging other Arab states to follow suit, added the writer. He said no one can condone such shameful act committed against people who have endured so much suffering by being turned out of their Palestinian homeland and living in miserable camps for most of their life.

DISCUSSING LABOUR Ministry's measures to control the local labour market a writer in Al Dustour said the ministry should not succumb to any pressure from any source trying to disrupt its measures against the violators of the law. Mohammad Daoud said that the three-month deadline given by the government to non-Jordanian workers to adjust to rules and obtain work permits is nearing, but the ministry has failed to report on any action taken against violators. The ministry should live up to its promise and take drastic measures against those staying in Jordan with no work permits and open the way for Jordanian job-seekers to get employment, demanded the writer. At a time when Jordan is facing a growing unemployment problem, the public is waiting to hear from the ministry the extent of the success of its measures if any success in this matter has been achieved.

The View from Academia

The Amman economic summit and future Arab relations

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdounbeh

THE AMMAN Economic Summit Conference, scheduled to begin at the end of this month, carries within it a significance which goes way beyond its immediate objectives, especially with respect to Arab-Arab relations. Indirectly, the conference comes to remind us of what these relations ought to be based on.

The idea behind the conference (among other things) is to enable the Middle Eastern countries, in the new era of peace in the region, to sit down with potential Arab and international investors and discuss actual or potential joint business projects. In other words, the summit epitomises the major concerns and needs of the Middle Eastern, Arab and world countries of today. In the aftermath of the cold war, world countries (especially the major industrial powers) are in hot pursuit of viable economic projects and business opportunities. In world politics today, the overriding concerns are economic; 'making a buck' has become, for most world countries, more pressing and important than commitment to human rights, ideology, the spread of democracy and other traditional concerns. This is, for example, what lies at the heart of U.S. relations with Japan, China, South America and the Middle East. And it is quite understandable, in light of the latest developments.

At a time when world countries are taking international economic opportunities, economic competition and economic welfare seriously, and are adopting speedy steps and measures congenial to projects of mutual benefit and gain, the Arab World remains largely aloof, too slow or way behind in this respect. Even though the overall climate has changed drastically over the past few years, a change which in many ways mirrors international developments, Arab-Arab relations remain in substance where they were ten, twenty, thirty or forty years ago; lukewarmness, pretended love, promises, rhetoric, dreams, jealousy and indirect or open hostility. Aside from a very few excellent examples of mutual cooperation (say The Jordanian-Syrian Land Trans-

port Company) most talk about Arab-Arab cooperation is at best symbolic, if not entirely hollow and void of content.

One understands perfectly, of course, the reasons behind the failure to bring Arab relations to the level which we desire. In addition to the many rules, laws, procedures, bureaucratic practices, attitudes and whimsical decisions which stand negatively in the way of mutual development aspirations, the political climate has for decades been incongenial to cooperation, coordination and progress — despite all claims or attempts at Arab solidarity, unity, etc. For a long time, the Arab Nation has been immensely factionalised, fragmented or at odds with itself. The factionalised, fragmented and odd world situation which prevailed in the aftermath of the World War II affected the Arab Nation tremendously. Within its own body (among the so-called brethren), there were undeclared as well as declared factions, alliances, counter-alliances, ideological camps, comrades and enemies.

I would also say that one main reason Arab-Arab relations have not worked so far is the false assumption on which such relations have been built. Whenever Arabs spoke of Arab-Arab relations in the past (in fact they still do), they always emphasised (despite the reality which often reflected something to the contrary) brotherliness, sisterliness, fraternity, kinship, comradeship, love, etc. Of course, the Arab World has so much in common: A common culture, a history, a heritage, a legacy, a language, a religion. This is undeniable. But one also cannot deny that the Arab Nation is today composed of twenty or more countries, each having its own individual aspirations, dreams, vision, needs, problems, conception, perspective, and so on. How can we deny that? This is one question to keep in mind. The other equally important question is, how can individual countries base their relations on brotherliness, sisterliness or love? Where can you cash that?

I would say that what has been absent for a long time (or

buried under mountains of patriotic and poetic slogans) in the Arab World is talk about mutual interests. Yes, this is (realistically speaking) what Arab-Arab relations ought to be based on. We are brothers, we are sisters, we are one nation, we are one culture, etc. Fine. But let's define our individual needs, concerns, wishes, even whimsical or peculiar wants. Do my brother and I (just because we are brothers) have the same needs, wishes, wants, hobbies? Do we like the same food and wear the same clothes? Obviously not.

I believe that the situation in the Arab World has changed tremendously, primarily because of the world changes at large. Even though some of the differences of the past still remain with us, most of them are in reality meaningless. Ideological differences among Arab countries (if they do in fact exist) are not serious. What is at stake here, whether Arab countries are aware of it or not, is economic survival, welfare and prosperity. The future of the Arab World, like the future of the world at large, lies in real economic cooperation. This is something the Arab Nation ought to prioritise.

The Arab World today has no reason to be at odds with itself. On the contrary, the Arab countries have so much in common, and they do complement themselves in many ways, especially economically. Some countries have the labour, some have the capital, some have the congenial geographic climate, some have the expertise, and so on.

The Amman Economic Summit Conference is a great opportunity for the Arab World, an opportunity in a double sense. First, it provides a specific forum for the presentation of specific economic projects, projects which we hope will be implemented. Secondly, it provides an example of what the Arab Nation ought to be doing as of today.

We need less patriotic sermons and more joint economic projects.

EU retreat does little to solve problems

By Jeremy Gaunt
 Reuter

ALCUDIA, Majorca — An informal meeting of European Union (EU) leaders on a Mediterranean island last weekend did little to solve the dilemmas facing the bloc as it heads towards the 21st century — and may even have made some worse.

Billed as a relaxed get-together to ponder the shape of Europe as it expands into Eastern Europe and adjusts to life in the post cold war world, the Majorca summit on Friday and Saturday was naturally hailed by its participants as a success.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, the host, said the idea of meeting without ministers, advisers and a formal agenda was so popular that the leaders wanted to do it more often. But beneath the rhetoric about bringing the bloc

closer to its citizens, the EU faces major challenges by the end of the decade, to keep monetary union plans on track, rewrite its founding treaties and complete its next enlargement.

The turmoil on currency markets in the run-up to Majorca, following comments from Germany that Italy might not make it in the first wave of countries to qualify, illustrated how much work remains to meet the 1999 target for monetary union.

Italy's Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, clearly upset by seeing his group of seven industrialised countries relegated to the second league, mentioned the unmentionable and suggested that date could be delayed.

Even without this, however, a number of leaders, notably Ireland's John Bruton and the Netherlands' Wim Kok, worried about what would happen to the economies of the countries who did not make the

strict currency criteria by 1999.

Though there was little summit tension over next year's inter-governmental conference (IGC), the EU's

The IGC must tackle divisive issues such as a country's right to veto legislation, increasing the voting power of larger states, attempts to bring judicial

Beneath the rhetoric about bringing the bloc closer to its citizens, the EU faces major challenges by the end of the decade, to keep monetary union plans on track, rewrite its founding treaties and complete its next enlargement.

review of how it works, there was nothing to suggest that fundamental divisions on how to reform the Maastricht treaty have been eased.

affairs into EU structures and plans for a joint defence policy.

British Prime Minister John Major, whose country is unbending in its opposi-

tion to deeper integration, said leaders should face reality and stop worrying about institutional change while its citizens drifted off in disinterest.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose support is crucial for EMU, said he was putting his personal credibility on the line in demanding that Europe forge a deeper union.

Without agreement at the IGC, the union will be unable to start negotiations to bring in as many as a dozen countries from eastern Europe and the Mediterranean.

Existing EU institutions and rules were designed for a bloc of six countries in 1957. Many officials say they are already out of date for a bloc of 15 in the 1990s. What, they say, will happen to them with a bloc of 30 in 2010?

But even putting the institutional questions aside, the EU has yet to come to grips with the cost of bring-

ing the lagging economies of Poland, Hungary and others into the fold.

EU agriculture and regional aid spending cannot be extended for eastern Europe in their current form without huge outlays that member states are not prepared to make.

Equally, poorer EU members such as Spain and Portugal, who currently receive the lion's share of EU funds, will want assurances that they will not lose out in a larger union.

European commission president Jacques Santer said that once the IGC is over, he will put forward proposals for the future financing of the bloc. Meanwhile, Europe had to put its own house in order before inviting others in.

Despite the "family feeling" which Gonzalez and others praised, all those at Majorca know that the worst family rows are often fought over domestic chores.

LETTERS

Islam should be the guide

To the Editor:

I READ the riveting article entitled, "Snake oil salesman, false prophets, the business of faith" which Rami Khouri contributed to the Jordan Times (October 3, 1995).

Indeed, I want to express my sympathy with some of the views expressed in the article, especially those which cast a light of scepticism on the "creed of the market" which is being preached to us and presented as a panacea for all of our problems.

An Islamic perspective is one that is averse to the diminution of the role of private enterprise and the market place since these are things that inhere in the nature of humans and in the nature of human society and which have a utilitarian, functional value necessary for the survival of society and civilisation. Attempts at countering those indomitable features of creation have been morally destructive, dehumanising and contrary to justice. The legacy of the now dismembered Soviet state attests to this.

Having said this, it is important to point out that the capitalist creed, to the extent that it defines the end of human existence in terms of material and sensual considerations, without adequate regard for the spiritual and the moral purposes in life, and without sufficient concern for the disadvantaged in society or those that are victims of its disregard for equity as a principle in international relations, is a philosophy that is an aspect of relative historical, intellectual and economic circumstances. The liberal dogmas that underpin it are equally relative and in a lot of senses are not suited as a universal, equitable system of ideas for mankind, with the latter's varied cultural, ethnic, moral and material conditions.

To the extent that Islam is a manifestation of God's final revelation to mankind, suitable as a doctrine, a legislative ideal and a way of life for all times and social conditions it should be our source of inspiration and guide in these difficult times. Indeed, in it lies the wherewithal to resist the false gods of the age and the principles that can secure us social equanimity and justice, freedom from exploitation and the happiness that we all yearn for.

Mr. Khouri initiated his article by saying "Ours is a very ancient, deeply spiritual and very mercantile land..." This statement embodies the texture of a

culture that entwines faith and spirituality with the material engagements of those that belong to it. Needless to mention, its monotheistic traditions appear forever to overcome the polytheism, the materialism and the hedonism that lamentably have a presence in human existence; these traditions give sanction to both the worldly and the otherworldly, the corporeal and the spiritual, the economic and the moral — all forming a structure of existence which Islam is uniquely capable of guiding and regulating, under God, the Everlasting, the Immutable, the One.

Khaled Nusseibeh,
 Amman.

The right to a dignified life

To the Editor:

WE have read with indignation about the trial of the Filipino maid in the U.A.E. and feel dignified that we do not have similar problems in Jordan on a large scale. However, we do not have to look further than our own neighbours' door to realise that foreign house helpers are being used and abused in our midst on daily basis.

Enthusiastic about the would-be achievements of the U.N.'s Fourth Conference on Women's call for equality, we need to stop and ask ourselves whether the equality we are advocating is broad enough to encompass those who are living among us and who are of different race and creed. As I look around I am disgusted by the way that some individuals within our society treat foreign maids as sub-humans who enjoy neither their natural right to self-dignity nor the right to protest against gross maltreatment by their employers. Violations of this inalienable right include long working hours, physical and verbal abuse, lack of adequate sleeping quarters, just to enumerate a few.

The horrifying factor is that these maids are not treated well by some of the offices which bring them into the country in the first place. Most often when the maids voice objections to employment in a specified house, some offices handle this complaint by resorting to violence, thus inflicting further offenses to force them in effect to succumb to the will of the lord. More atrocious is the human selection process which one undergoes to hire the maid in the first place. akin to the days of slavery in women, these maids are lined up in the office for the prospective employer to view them. With terrified looks on

their faces and fear in their eyes, offices start the barrage of personal questioning of their life histories. This degrading process did not go unnoticed even by my five-year old child who asked me if we were buying the women, how much we were paying for her, and can she name the one selected "foshah".

Lacking any scientific research on the degree of abuse these maids are subjected to except hearsay and personal witnessing of their maltreatment by the office and employers, I ask who is protecting their rights to a dignified existence. Although many may wonder as they read this article whether this is a frivolous topic to delve in since our own battered Jordanian women do not enjoy full protection and recourse to the law, yet human injustice should be protested no matter who its victims are.

Abla Amawin,
 Amman

Stop nuclear testing

To the Editor:

At a time when the world is trying to clean the environment and reduce the danger of pollution, France decides to resume nuclear testing in the Pacific. The world has suffered enough from ecological disasters at the hands of humanity, and nuclear testing is certainly a big threat.

With the break-up of the former Soviet Union and the collapse of the Eastern block, the threat of nuclear war no longer exists. Many of the nuclear warheads in the former Soviet republics are being dismantled. So what will France benefit from the resumption of nuclear testing?

If the French find it clean and safe to explode nuclear devices, then why don't they do it in their own backyard? I am sure they have the facilities to carry it out in France, instead of endangering the lives of animals, plants and humans in the Pacific. I hope that the French have not forgotten that there are people living in Tahiti and other parts of French Polynesia.

To President Chirac: Please stop the experimentation before something happens that everybody will regret afterwards.

Mohammad A. Jalal,
 Amman.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Seniors make the news, juniors find new news

Former Prime Minister and former Senator Ahmad Obeidat is back in Amman with a clean bill of health. Mr. Obeidat returned from one of his periodic check-ups in the United States where several years ago he had received medical treatment. On his return trip he stopped in Berlin where he was invited by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation to a conference on the "return of socialism." Mr. Obeidat, who was once director of the General Intelligence Department, reports that speakers from Europe, Latin America and the Middle East gathered to discuss political and economic changes in the former "Eastern Bloc" countries six years after the fall of Communism and the rise of Western-style democracy and capitalism. The focus, he says, was on the turbulence which followed — unemployment, violence, organised crime — and what political and economic steps could be taken to prevent such negative outcomes. The two-day conference was opened by German Minister of Foreign Affairs Klaus Kinkel. With a passing report card from the doctors and an earful of the recommended dos and don'ts in eras of change, Mr. Obeidat, a lawyer, has much to ponder while getting back to work as president of the Jordan Environment Society and activist on the political lecture circuit.

IN THE NICK OF TIME: Recovering well from a stroke, retired army Chief of Staff Fawwaz Maher, returned to Amman from Jerusalem where he was being treated at Hadassah Hospital. General Maher, who was once military governor of the West Bank, and served as ambassador to Turkey and China after his retirement from the military, was airlifted by helicopter from King Hussein Medical Centre to the medical facility in Jerusalem more than two weeks ago when it appeared his condition was worsening. Gen. Maher was said to be placed under tight security at Hadassah because of threats of journalists converged on the hospital to investigate the story. But two people were able to slip through the lines and even get in twice to see the general. They were none other than Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his wife Leah. As young officers Mr. Rabin and Gen. Maher were in the same class at the Royal Command and Staff College at Camberley in England. In fact, on his first visit to Jordan after signing the peace treaty with the Kingdom nearly one year ago, Mr. Rabin had asked to see his old classmate. As soon as he was in stable condition and well enough to fly back to Amman, Gen. Maher was brought home again. He is now convalescing well. Since his retirement from diplomacy, Gen. Maher has devoted most of his time to charity work, particularly in the Circassian community of which he is an active member.

LET'S TALK SHOP: **PING:** "Business at Jerusalem's Malha Mall is booming," according to Jacob Dallal of the Jerusalem Post. And the reason is, he reports, is the "unexpected clientele — Jordanians." Certainly, the use of the term "booming" is gild-

ing the lily. Dallal's description of Jordanian shoppers can be likened to shoppers at Harrod's annual after-Christmas sale or worse. He writes: "The visiting Jordanians have been going on all out shopping sprees at our mall, buying everything from clothes and accessories to electronics," he wrote this week. "They have been said to clean out entire shelves full of items in boutiques. Some store owners have even given orders to their sales clerks to drop everything if a Jordanian family enters and to attend to the big buyers in a most royal fashion." According to Dallal, the mall's director will launch a big-budget advertising campaign in the Kingdom.

HOMEWARD BOUND: Reuters General Manager in Amman Richard Khoury is leaving today after three years at his post in Jordan and 14 years with the global news agency. Khoury is proud of his accomplishments in the short term he has spent in the Kingdom, particularly in that he saw revenue grow by nearly 63 per cent and he was instrumental in obtaining approval to receive wire service through a satellite dish rather than local lines. As general manager, Khoury managed a staff of half a dozen reporters in addition to administrative personnel. While the general manager's authority does not extend to what his/her reporters write, he/she would be responsible should an item be detrimental to the company. Khoury, resigned from Reuters in order to return home to Beirut. He is succeeded by the General Manager for Egypt, North Africa and Sudan, Saad Farr. The 39-year-old Farr is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts in the U.S. He began with Reuters in Amman in 1981 as a sales executive, helped launch the electronic ticket output service in Jordan and was responsible for putting the Amman Financial Market on the global electronic network. In 1984 he opened the Reuters office in Abu Dhabi, and in 1987 he became sales manager for the Gulf area, working out of the company's Bahrain office. In early 1989 Farr was made responsible for company projects in the Middle East and Africa from Reuters' Cyprus office, and by the end of the year he was sent to the Cairo office where he remained until his move back home to Jordan. Farr says he is looking forward to a prosperous era after the peace process and is especially interested in seeing Reuters' business grow in Jordan, Syria and Iraq — the tri-states under his sphere of duty. He and his wife Linda have a 9-year-old boy, and judging from Saad himself, all appear to be happy to back home. Meanwhile, Jack Redden stays on as chief correspondent in Amman.

NO FOND FAREWELLS: Sukail Matalqa has retired at the age of 60 as advisor to Ministry of Information. The former diplomat who served at Jordan's embassy in Lebanon in 1970 as information attaché, then went on to serve in Tokyo, is said, not for himself, he says, but for a system that would allow a veteran

civil servant leave his final post without so much as a fond farewell. In his varied tenure at the Ministry of Information as an advisor/counsellor, Mr. Matalqa was seconded to the Arab League in Tunisia, in New York as deputy director, and in San Francisco as director. He also spent a year in Washington, D.C. at the Jordan Information Bureau. When he returned to the ministry he served under then Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzedine. He went to work for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for one year as director of information. But since 1993 he says he has been but a "nominal advisor." After, by his count, 29 years, 3 months and 18 days of service he feels resentment for the "uncivilised manner in which people in high positions treat loyal citizens." Mr. Matalqa has no set plans for his retirement but family members think it will not be long before he finds something of interest in the private sector.

A FAMILY WOMAN: Far away from her native Finland and her home in Sweden is Dorrit Alopaeus-Stahl, the new Area Manager of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Mrs. Alopaeus-Stahl, 49, who arrived in Amman last Saturday, is experiencing two major career-related shifts. She has moved from the Swedish foreign service to her first post with the U.N., of which she says she is a staunch supporter. She has also switched regions, having spent 10 of the last 20 years working in Africa. Most recently Mrs. Alopaeus-Stahl was counsellor for multilateral affairs at the Swedish embassy in Nairobi and was deputy permanent representative of Sweden to the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and HABITAT. She has a bachelors degree in sociology and socio-economic planning and is also a registered nurse. Her writings include a report on "Children's Right to Health" which she co-authored with Lisbet Palme, the wife of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olaf Palme. From the contacts she has already made here, Mrs. Alopaeus-Stahl says she is hopeful that hard work, put in by herself, by the UNICEF team and by Jordanian counterparts will mean significant advances for women and children in her area, which currently encompasses Jordan, Syria and Djibouti. Mrs. Alopaeus-Stahl is married, she and her husband (who will be joining her soon) have two adult children.

HOME OF HIS ALMA MATER: Bahrain's new Ambassador to Jordan Ambassador, Mohammad Seif Jabr Al Mussallam, is certainly no stranger to the Kingdom. Born in 1952, the ambassador is a graduate of the Jordan Military Academy and the Royal Jordanian Staff College in Amman. In 1989 he served as Bahrain's military attaché in Amman. A full colonel, Ambassador Mussallam follows in the steps of his diplomat father who was an ambassador of Bahrain in Kuwait. The new envoy is described as generous and having a pleasant personality, thus he has many friends and acquaintances in Jordan.

Ambassador Mussallam is married and has two girls and two boys.

DESTINATION AMMAN: Starting Sunday about 400 employees from airline round the world will be in Jordan for the convening of the 28th Annual General Assembly of the World Airline Club Association (WACA). Hosting this first-ever meeting in a Middle Eastern country is the Jordan Interline Club, which itself boasts about 100 members. WACA is the international body of Interline Clubs which aim at promoting the interests of personnel in the airline industry and exchanging ideas and suggestions with counterparts in the various airlines represented in each participating country. So far representatives from 35 countries have registered for either the four-day or six-day package, the difference being the extra days will include tours to Jerash, the Dead Sea and Petra. Jordan's delegate to the conference is Sakher Kreisha, of Royal Jordanian's Computer and Information Systems Department, who said that with the prevailing peace in the region, the number of participants to the coming event has doubled. Mr. Kreisha was particularly pleased that the WACA meeting also coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Jordan Interline Club. The participants are coming from North America, Latin America, the Near East, the Middle East (including Israel) and the Far East. While one can expect serious matters on the WACA agenda, airline staff still know how to have fun, and that they surely will at the gala dinners planned for the international event taking place at the Jordan InterContinental Hotel.

A MOST STUDIOUS BUNCH: Fun is not necessarily the aim of the Jordanian Students Association which was just established, with the blessing of the government, in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Its goal is to "spread the cultural message of Jordan and better an already favourable and peaceful image" of the Kingdom in the U.K., say members of the association's founding committee. The six-man team of 5 doctoral candidates (Ma'in Murtuqi Qatamin, Fahed Saleem Khateeb, Lu'ayy Minwar Rimawi (who at times writes for the Jordan Times), Ibrahim Abdel Rahman Karasneh and Sultan Abdel Rahman Tarawneh) and one masters degree hopeful (Zayed Ali Bashayreh) say they seek to cooperate with Arab and overseas student bodies, especially in areas of academic and social interest to Jordanian students. But we remind our aspiring academicians: All work and no play.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Fallen is the mask

Memory for Forgetfulness: August, Beirut, 1982
by Mahmoud Darwish
Translated from the Arabic by Ibrahim Muhawi
University of California Press, 1995, 182 PP. \$10

Mahmoud Darwish's *Memory for Forgetfulness* encapsulates so many ideas, feelings and stunning images that it defies the reviewer to know where to start. Certainly, this prose poem is not primarily about the actual siege of Beirut, although that momentous event provided the setting and impetus for its writing, by tearing off the masks of the past to reveal the stark present reality.

During the siege, Darwish, the most eloquent of Palestinian poets, did not write. "I'm writing my silence," he told a journalist (p. 61), according to preeminence to the defenders of the city to whom he says:

"Guard then, as you are doing, the cutting edge of the song against what blunts the heart in this narrow wilderness, narrow like an open space that doesn't look out from a window... You're defending the lineages of this coast against the mix-up of meanings, that history shall not be made docile and the place a mere estate to be inherited" (pp. 50-51).

Three years later, Darwish closeted himself in his flat in Paris, his new place of exile, and hammered out his thoughts and memories centred on one day of the siege: August 8th. The result was published in 1986, as *The Time: Beirut/The Place: August*, in the literary journal *Al Karmel*. Now, a decade later, it has been published in English with a title more poetic, but equally paradoxical.

Paradoxes are rife in *Memory for Forgetfulness*. In Beirut, Begin encounters the "ghosts" he thought he had eradicated at Deir Yassin, while the Palestinians are required to leave, with no home to go to. This echoes the original paradox of the Palestinians being classified as "present absentees" in their own country, which Darwish raged against in his early poems.

Beirut is a paradox — a city open to all, providing "training for an imagined democracy," yet in the end making the Palestinians outsiders. Darwish fears for the future: "... as we move away, we can see ourselves turning into memories" (p. 60). What happened to Palestine? he asks. "Peace swallowed her," answers a voice (p. 95).

Darwish contrasts the Palestinian's hope of return with the reality of betrayal. Palestine is on all lips, yet the Palestinian most often finds himself a scapegoat: "... When he holds his peace, his soul is taken out to the stray dogs" and when he moves towards the homeland, his body is dragged out to the dogs. The intellectuals... have convinced him he's the only alternative to the status quo; yet when the status quo pounces on him, they demand self-criticism because he has gone too far...

Darwish makes more meaningful self-criticism, faulting the PLO for not holding leaders accountable, for severing democracy from nationalism and seeing in Lebanon "only our own image" (p. 45). None of his themes have become

BOOK REVIEW

outdated in the decade since he wrote: Witness Israel's continued refusal to repatriate the refugees, Libya's recent expulsions and the PNA's mode of governance.

Memory for Forgetfulness is existentialist in style, and in the interplay between details of daily life and questions of destiny. But Darwish achieves a connectedness usually lost to the existentialists. There is wafer-thin unity between his aesthetic and moral values, and between his particular (Palestinian) and universal (human) concerns. It is thus hard to accept the translator's note that Darwish has been misread as a resistance poet or poet of the resistance, "rather than as a poet whose major concerns are national" (p. xxvii). Darwish has protested at his poetry being put in the service of political programmes, but his concern is neither apolitical nor exclusively national. Rather, he practises "the only choice open to us: Creativity in the revolution and revolution in creativity" (p. 137). Surely, his aspirations entail resistance as long as there is injustice, dehumanisation, ugliness or stagnation to resist against.

By Sally Bland

How many trees grow in New York? City wants to know

By Carol Vinzant
Reuter

New York - The city of New York is trying to count its trees before they are all gone.

Several incidents of 'arboricide' this year have spurred on hundreds of volunteers and parks department workers to start walking the city's 33,278 blocks, clipboards in hand, to find out exactly how many trees do grow in the five boroughs.

Police last month arrested a contractor hired to cut down three trees that obstructed a corporate sign on the front of a gym, and a reward of \$2,500 was offered for the 'murder' of seven other London plane trees. The Parks Department calls a man they claim chopped down 42 trees to get a better view 'the Butcher of Bay Ridge' and wants him to pay \$32,000 to replace the big, old trees with 92 new ones.

"It's definitely arboricide in the first degree, but I

think technically it's vandalism," said Parks Department spokesman Parke Spencer.

Census takers will note the size, species and health of the trees. The information will be 'put into a huge tree management data base' to be used to help pruners, removers and planters, Mr. Spencer said. They expect to find 500,000 to 700,000 trees along city pavements. An estimated two million more are in city parks.

No one is sure how much the census will cost or how long it will take, but coordinator Tricia Lindemann estimates a couple of months. "We're only limited by the onset of cold weather and leaves falling," she said. "It's very difficult to identify a tree without leaves."

In a city with little greenery, trees are a precious commodity and their destruction has been known to cause neighbourhood commotion. But because of a reduced street tree budget

— \$3 million compared with \$5.5 million in 1991 — residents usually have a two-year wait to have a new tree planted and a one-year wait to have a dead one removed.

With a permit, residents are allowed to plant their own trees along the pavements provided the trunk is at least two-and-a-half inches across and not one of the species banned for being too messy (mulberry), buckling pavements (silver maple), having deep, tenuous roots (willow), having dangerous fruit (osage-orange) or being invasive and smelly (tree of heaven).

The city also recommends strongly against "monoculture" — every tree on the block being the same type.

For the impatient, the city has started a programme called "one stop tree shopping" in which residents pay around \$400 and get a tree in the next planting season. People choose their species from a list the city has compiled of those most likely to survive. The most popular trees for new planting are the callery pear and the honey locust.

Life in the city is just too rough for many trees. A tree with a normal lifespan of 10-12 years has an average life of only seven years in Manhattan, said Joe Bernardo of Trees New York, a non-profit group that trains citizen pruners.

"Most trees planted are about 12 years old. It's like getting an adolescent and bringing it out of the nursery and turning it out on the streets of New York," Mr. Bernardo said.

Mr. Spencer said the new data base will show which trees are more likely to survive.

While the city says it removes roughly as many trees as it plants, tree planting advocates claim the city actually removes several thousand more dead trees than it replaces with new ones each year.

Claude X, gatecrasher extraordinaire

by Michel Sallhan
Agence France Presse

PARIS — A distinguished looking gentleman often seen rubbing shoulders with the high and mighty at official receptions in France has turned out to be a former state betting shop employee with a strong gift for gatecrashing.

How Claude Khazizian, 64, gets past the security checks without an invitation he will not say, but the television footage and the print media photographs all show he has certainly found a way. No doubt his impeccable double-breasted suit helps.

His exploits have made Mr. Khazizian the darling of the French media, who identify him only as "Claude X."

While declining to give details, he spoke to AFP about some of this year's exploits, starting with the Elysee Palace reception in May when 61 heads of state and government gathered to see Jacques Chirac succeed Francois Mitterrand as French president. "Claude X" duly

appeared in photos with them.

"The excitement mounted with each step I took," he remembered.

"I kept saying to myself, 'I'm going to leave, someone is going to ask who I am'."

But then it was cocktail time, followed by the photo call, and there I was, talking with several heads of state." Everybody was in a good mood and was there to relax, not to discuss politics, Claude X said.

Places reserved in the stands for government people were marked in red. "Don't be too big-headed, I thought, and sat down at the back," Claude X recounted.

After a while, he made his way over to Mr. Chirac, who was alone at that moment, and proffered his congratulations. They shook hands.

However the television station did not in the event screen his adventure, for

Computing against the current

By Jean-Claude Elias

PC users come in many colours, shapes, and ages. They can be 10 years old or they can be grandfathers with 20 grandchildren. A gentleman I know started to learn computer programming in his early sixties and is now successfully selling his work. Among all this wide variety of people, some are necessarily doing a better job with the machines than others.

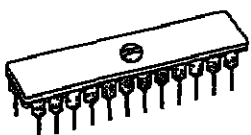
A rare breed is even able to take the best out of the old PCs they own. They do it right and quickly. One would probably think that they are super fast machines, with plenty of megabytes and megahertz, fitted with highly advanced software and programming languages. If this is actually the case for a very few lucky ones, others, on the contrary, work with relatively simple, inexpensive computers, and still manage to obtain excellent results.

The trend towards Windows-based software, and Windows 95 more particularly, implies minimum hardware characteristics, in terms of memory, disk capacity and processing power. Going with the trend means buying expensive equipment.

The rare breed we are talking about represents a small percentage of the PC users population that have decided not to go to complicated hardware and software — i.e. not to follow the trend. When the whole world is hustling after 15" or 17" high resolution, expensive colour screens, they are happy working with plain 12" monochrome monitors.

A good old 386 PC fitted with just 2MB of memory and 40MB hard disk — a configuration that would make most of the trend-setters laugh — is more than enough to make them perform like high-flying acrobats in a circus ring. Needless to say, without a net, but with wonderful results.

chip talk



This species usually likes to run fast, efficient word processors like WordPerfect for DOS or Quattro Pro spreadsheet, also for DOS ("for DOS," as opposed to "for Windows"). They gladly sacrifice a few gadgets or features for simplicity and speed. As programming language, they stick to time-tested pieces like Qbasic, Clipper or Fortran. Who cares if they have less control on fancy colour output (especially if they are using a monochrome monitor) and won't use a mouse?

While there is no denial that the new Windows and the related application programmes present a real interest for some, as do the Pentium computers, one cannot but admit that part of all that is due to marketing, clever promotion and fashion. It's hip, it's cool to use Harvard Graphics for Windows instead of the faster, same programme for DOS, even if you are not sure why you are doing it. Somehow, sophisticated PC products, laser discs, satellite dishes and cellular phones belong to the same group of things to (try to) have. You are in or you are out.

PC users who are goal-oriented usually try to make the best out of the software and hardware that is available to them. They generally succeed. Those who are rather task-oriented keep looking for the ideal and fashionable way to do things, using the most hi-tech equipment. They may still be looking.

Look who's talking too

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Consider just what the extremely silly, silly meaning blessed and pure, would ever talk about: The clocks should have been turned back last weekend lads, shouldn't they?

There was some talk about the group of youngsters who did not indulge in the now familiar ritual. Their plan entailed contacting a local radio station where they tried to convince the presenters that they had got the timing of their programmes wrong. Apparently, the people at the station, and for a while, had turned back their clocks, again.

But now that people are talking, maybe its time that we talked about goaty beards and water pipe cafes, about cars and fast food, about Double Burners and Sophist-O-Twists, and about the by now famous millennium mugs.

Or maybe we could talk about words drifting into meaning something else. For example, consider the change that prepositions have undergone over the years. We used to 'fill in' a form, but now we 'fill out' a form. People also used to say 'its up to you', while now they use 'its down to you'. Consider also the expression 'go missing' where it is plainly wrong to say that something has gone missing when it has just been lost.

But aren't there far more important things that we could, and rightly so should, talk about? There certainly are.

A recent study in Jordan by the Consumer Protection Society, covering housing, food, health, and education, found that a minimum of JD 580 is needed per month to cover the basic needs of an average Jordanian family while the average family income stood somewhere between JD 120 and JD 200. Also, about 88 per cent of the families surveyed earned less than the JD 580 minimum stated.

"Never been taken in by statistics" was another message this week. People had a hard time believing that using comparative price indexing to boost the presumed average income per person for one country by comparing its prices of commodities with another does anything to their lives. Reality does matter and it is what you pay at the end of the day that matters to the average citizen.

But now that certain loan repayments no longer have to be paid, will we see the effect of that money, and more, on

the lives of people as it becomes diverted into local projects boosting social development and production? If the analyses of our journalists and so called analysts are anything to go by, then things will begin to pick up for everyone, though for some more than others, very soon. But won't international investors move to other countries in a few years time once the wage increases here mean that it will be cheaper to produce the same goods elsewhere?

Another important issue raised during the past few days was whether our high percentage of population growth, now standing at 3.4 per cent, was at the root of the university entrance problem in terms of the ever increasing numbers having to go through our educational system? Is anybody looking into this?

It was also during the past week that it came to our attention, yet again, that some Third World countries' rulers and gang leaders were resorting to killing their own people by bringing in nuclear waste to be dumped on their land just so that they could get their hands on the funds needed to buy weapons.

People were also deeply moved over the past few days by the story of the young Jordanian who upon graduation from George Washington University turned down a job offer, full benefits and seductions included, to work for a telecommunications company in the United States and decided to come back to his home country.

More plans are underway to refurbish some of the central areas of Amman. Such areas are apparently in urgent need of new roads, so new roads will cut through the existing communities. And where playgrounds are apparently needed, homes will be demolished to make way for them and the assortment of street lights. To be fair, it has to be noted that the residents whose houses will be demolished to make way for progress, will be amply compensated.

The old neighbourhoods of our city are maybe some of the last places in Amman where we could go searching for genuine cotton socks and where public space, as it would no longer exist, is truly appreciated.

Sadly enough, all such unique public spaces will in time be either plastered over, turned into highways and roundabouts as truly befits our relationship with progress and modernisation.

REFRESH YOUR MEMORY

Great men make history. Following are six famous personalities. Try to identify them. Recognising four means your memory is still fresh and strong.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- I didn't want to hurt you. Lam aqsid idraraka.
- I feel hungry and thirsty. Ash'or bilj'n wal'atash.
- He peacefully died away. Mata wanafsuhi mut'ma'inu
- May God rest his soul in peace. Taghamdahul'lahu bewas'e rahmateh.
- She made the right decision. Ittakhathat al-qarar asaleem.
- You made me ashamed. Laqad akhjalani.
- It turned out to be all right, I am happy to say. Yus'idoni al-qawl qadintaha ala khayri ma youram.
- Darling! You were fantastic! Habbibati! Laqad konti rae'a.
- I guess you've made a big mistake, haven't you. Azonnun annaka irtakabta khata'an jasseman Alaysa kathalek
- I can never deny that, I am to blame. La astat'i an onkir thasalek, fa'anal ma'loom.

JOKES

- * A FOOL once passed some boys playing with a dead falcon. He bought it for one dinar and took it back home. "Good heavens," shouted his mother. "What on earth had made you do that. The bird is dead, isn't it?" "Hush, mum! If it were alive, it would cost much more than 50 dinars!"
- * At a famous restaurant, a customer sat at a table to have his lunch. He placed a towel round his neck. The chef, noticing him, wanted tactfully to pay his attention to change the position of the towel. A waiter came forward to him, bowed and politely asked him: "Excuse me, sir. Would you like to shave or have your hair cut?"

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the extant rodent in the world?
2. Which English queen bore her husband 15 children?
3. Which is the city that Lord Byron, having spent 23 days there, described as, "my country's city of the soul"?
4. Eton College was founded by which monarch?
5. Where would you find the Gatun Lake, the Haillard

6. Which British University was the first to admit women to degrees?
7. What is the noun of assembly for goldfinches?

PUZZLE ME

BILL BROWN, the woodcutter, throws a pretty dart, and when ascertaining his score after one game, he found that each dart had scored exactly one-third of his total. His first dart scored a "single", his second scored a "double", and his third a "treble". His total was 54. How many did each dart score?



Thursday, Oct. 5, 1995

- 1:00 Iris - The Happy Professor
- 1:20 Fireman Sam
- 1:30 My Secret Identity
- 2:00 N.B.A.
- 3:00 The New Leave It to Beaver
- 3:30 Take Your Pick
- 4:00 White Heat
- 5:00 Children's Programme
- Les Mondes Engloutis
- "Tade et Lls Ensignes Sacres"
- Varieties And Game Show
- Le Monde Est A Vous
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Court Metrage
- Vision
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Soccer Match
- Live From Tunisia
- 9:05 The New Avengers
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — "Kindergarten Cop"
- Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger & Pamela Reed
- 11:50 The Thoru Birds

Friday, Oct. 6, 1995

- 1:00 Read A Lee Deed A Lee
- 1:15 Beethoven
- 1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That
- 2:00 White Fang
- 2:30 The Ronn Lucas Show
- 3:00 Tall Tales & Legends
- 4:00 The Crystal Maze
- 5:00 Children Programme
- Les Mondes Engloutis
- "Le Temkor D'Arkana"
- 5:30 Telefilm
- La Balle Pi Rdui
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- E=M6
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 African Skies
- 8:00 Coach
- 8:30 World Museums
- 9:15 Wolf

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Buccaneers (Social Drama)
- 11:30 Movie — The Last Glory Of Troy
- Starring: Steve Reeves & Carla Marlier

Saturday, Oct. 7, 1995

- 2:00 Back To The Future
- 2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
- 3:00 Blue Heelers
- 3:45 Only In Hollywood
- 4:10 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 Children's Programme
- Les Mondes Engloutis
- "La Takades Imuks"
- 5:30 Documentary
- Le Loire Au Fil Des Hommes
- Drama Series
- Operation Open I Et 2
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Fant Pas Rever
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Major Dad
- 8:00 Furst Flights
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Voices Within (Mini-Series)
- 11:50 The Tin Flute (Mini Series)

Sunday, Oct. 8, 1995

- 2:00 The Flintstones
- 2:30 Joshua Jones
- 2:45 Droopy Master Detective
- 3:00 Scientific Eye
- 3:30 Pay Wall's Summar
- 4:00 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 Children's Programme
- Les Mondes Engloutis

- 5:30 Serie
- Fruits Et Legumes
- 6:00 Document
- Mittie Europa
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Ushuaia: Le Magazine De L'Extreme
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Nurses
- 8:00 Cinema, Cinema
- 8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:15 Murder She Wrote
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Voices Within (Mini-Series)
- 11:10 Return To Eden
- 12:30 Keeping Up Appearances

Monday, Oct. 9, 1995

- 2:00 Shelley Duvall's bedtime Stories
- 2:30 Hey Dad!
- 3:00 Survival
- 4:00 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 Children Programme
- Les Mondes Engloutis
- 5:30 Serie
- Les Aventuriers Du Rio Verde
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Nimbus
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Mc Hale's Navy
- 8:00 Camp Wildest
- 8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Hearts Of The West
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Inspector Morse
- 11:30 American Chart Show
- 12:00 Stamp Of Greatness

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 1995

- 2:00 Captain Planet
- 2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S

- 3:00 To Run The Gauntlet
- 4:00 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 Children's Programme
- Les Mondes Engloutis
- 5:30 Serie
- Fruits Et Legumes
- 6:00 Magazine
- Croisiere A L.A. Decouverte Du Monde
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Fant Pas Rever
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 The Piglet Files
- 8:00 You Bet Your Life
- 8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:15 True Blue
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — Blind Justice
- Starring: Tim Matheson & Mimi Kuzyk
- Grace Under Fire
- 12:30 Varieties

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 1995

- 2:00 Madeline
- 2:30 Ghost Writers
- 3:00 Tomorrows World
- 3:30 Amazing Stories
- 4:00 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 Children's Programme
- Les Mondes Engloutis
- Jeux
- 5:30 Paga Paga
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Ushuaia, Le Magazine De L'Extreme
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Anything For A Laugh
- 8:00 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe
- 8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:15 The Other Americas
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Prism
- 10:45 Law And Order
- 11:45 Silk Road
- 12:30 Second Thoughts

After string of hit movies, MacDowell laughs last

By Bob Tourtellotte
 Reuter

HOLLYWOOD — In her mid-20s, critics laughed off Andie MacDowell as just another gorgeous model who couldn't act, but after a string of hit movies, MacDowell is the one laughing now.

In Greystoke: The Legend

Of Tarzan, Lord Of The Apes (1984), Glenn Close was hired to record over MacDowell's southern accent. As she has with other difficulties in her life, MacDowell refused to let it discourage her.

"It's still slightly irritating because it's the most negative aspect of my career. But the most important thing is

that I overcame it," the actress, now 37, said in an interview for her new movie Unstrung Heroes.

MacDowell could have returned to the security of lucrative modelling contracts for the likes of L'oreal and Calvin Klein. Instead, she went to acting school and auditioned for every role that came her way,

landing parts in a string of hit movies and eventually winning Hollywood stardom.

In Unstrung Heroes MacDowell transforms herself again, from playing her usual romantic leading lady role to portraying Selma Litz, a nurturing mother with an iron will.

"I love the relationship the mother and son have," MacDowell said, "the strength and power of that." Litz is in a transition, too. She is battling cancer and trying to keep her family together in a tumultuous time.

Her husband Sid, an eccentric inventor played by John Turturro, is having trouble dealing with her disease, and he is convinced he can dream up a machine that will save her.

Twelve-year-old son Steven, played by Nathan Watt, decides to uncover his Jewish roots by developing a mentor relationship with his two neurotic uncles, one of whom is played by Michael Richards, the madcap Kramer on television's Seinfeld show.

Litz's subtle power helps settle the awkward situations that develop and keeps the family together. "There is something to be said for overcoming difficult periods in your life," MacDowell said in her southern drawl. "It makes you a much stronger per-



Andie MacDowell with British actor Hugh Grant in the movie Four Weddings And A Funeral

son." MacDowell overcame a difficult childhood with an alcoholic mother to become a famous model whose face appeared in television commercials and magazine ads around the world.

"It is human nature that people want to criticise models because it looks like

things have been given to them and they make so much money," she said. "The very fortunate thing for me is that I did not have to portray beautiful women (on film)."

Years after the disappointment of Greystoke, she landed a part in an obscure, low-budget movie called

Sex, Lies And Videotape. It became one of the biggest hits of 1989 and earned MacDowell praise from critics and audiences.

A string of Hollywood-sized films such as Green Card followed, helping to cement her reputation as a legitimate actress. But another low-budget movie, Four Weddings And A Funeral with co-star Hugh Grant in 1994, made her a star.



Andie MacDowell in the film Sex, Lies And Videotapes

Filmmakers invade East Europe to save money, get new look

By John Horn

LOS ANGELES — The logic is simple. The story originally set in Chicago is filmed in Moscow. The movie about Argentina is shot in Budapest. And the generic American horror thriller is made in Romania.

In the wake of political upheaval in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, a growing number of U.S. filmmakers are invading former Warsaw Pact countries, attracted by fresh vistas and low overhead.

Many of the roving productions are low-budget outfits, but a few — such as Madonna's Evita filming in Hungary — are multimillion-dollar blockbusters.

"I think Eastern Europe is a very viable alternative," says Buzz Feitshans, president of production at Cinergi, the makers of the Peron family musical Evita. Budapest's exteriors will double for Argentina's, Feitshans says, so the company won't have to build many expensive sets.

Some of the overseas facilities — not to mention the moviemaking hardware — are far below Western standards, and most crew import cameras, lights and sound equipment. But what Eastern Europe lacks in modernity, it more than makes up for in cheap, ample labour and unique locales.

Some U.S. movie producers have been forced to bribe otherwise baky bureaucrats, yet such complications can pale in comparison to the hassles of filming in major American cities.

"The work ethic is real good and there are absolute-

ly fabulous locations," says Charles Band. His Full Moon Entertainment built a Bucharest studio three years ago to churn out 30 of Full Moon's modestly budgeted direct-to video horror movies (including Subspecies, Trancers, Dragon World).

"We're in the volume business, and you get a lot more value for the dollar," Band says.

One of the best current examples of "Hollywood East" is the new thriller Mute Witness, about an American movie crew member who stumbles upon a snuff film ring.

This independently produced movie's story once unfolded in Chicago. Russia proved to be a much more affordable setting, so writer-director Anthony Waller overhauled his script, adding a new twist about the KGB and making Russia's rickety political infrastructure part of the drama.

"We could shoot in Russia at a fraction of the cost we could have in the West," Waller says. "In fact, the movie would have been unaffordable if we had remained in the West." Much of the movie was shot in the dilapidated government-run Mosfilm Studios, and that structure's seediness amplified the snuff film storyline.

Filming in and around Moscow was not a complete breeze, though.

More than 90 crates of production equipment legally shipped from Munich to Moscow was not released from customs until Waller slipped officials \$5,000 cash and several bottles of vodka.

Leading Russian actor Oleg Jankowski realised on the eve of filming his English "wasn't a good enough, and many of his lines had to be dubbed. Another Russian actor, Waller says, had such a drug problem he could barely stand for his scenes. And then there was the first day of filming — Oct. 4, 1993.

"I woke up to the sounds of explosions and machine-gun fire," says Waller. The movie's start coincided with the October Revolution, the storming of the Russian parliament building. With only minor delays, however, production stayed on track.

Waller's film crew included just five Americans, a few Germans and more than 100 Russians (accompanied by four interpreters). Waller also scored the film in Moscow, using a 64-piece orchestra.

The bang-for-your-buck magnet also attracted B-movie legend Roger Corman. Corman's company filmed two movies for cable's showtime — Hellfire and Bram Stoker's Burial Of The Rats — in Moscow. In classic Corman style, it was movie sets that brought him to Russia.

In the 1960s, Corman cannibalised used sets from The Sound Of Music and The Sand Pebbles for his low-budget St. Valentine's Day Massacre. So when Mosfilm President Vladimir Dostal recently told Corman that Mosfilm was building a French provincial city and chateau for a historical drama, Corman took the architectural plans to two screenwriting teams and told them to create movies to match the blueprints.

After all, Corman thought,

how often can you get a \$1 million set for free?

"We were not able to take advantage of all the Russian locations, but we took advantage of the sets," says Corman of the back-to-back productions. He gave Mosfilm the movies' Russian rights as part of the deal.

"The pictures look very, very big," Corman says. "We filmed totally with their equipment — some of which is not completely up to Western standards but is good enough."

The makers of the long-delayed Evita considered making the movie in the country in which the story is set, but Eastern Europe was simply too attractive. To bring equipment into Argentina, which has sparse production hardware, Cinergi would have to ship supplies in from Australia. In Budapest, cameras and lights can be easily transferred from Germany.

"And you have a look there that you would have to build in other parts of Europe," Feitshans says of Budapest. "For a large part, the cities have not been taken over by neon lights and parking meters — the stuff you worry about when you're doing a period film."

As opposed to filming in the United States, he adds, filmmakers are surprisingly welcome abroad.

"You can literally go out in the streets without too much trouble," he says. "The government responds to you, unlike most of the U.S. (major cities). In Los Angeles, they defy you to make a movie here."

Cezanne fever hits Paris

By Michael Thurston
 Agence France Presse

PARIS — Even by the famously art-loving standards of the Parisians, the stampede to get into the newly-opened Cezanne retrospective show in the Grand Palais here is something to see.

Days before it opened Saturday, queues stretched round the block by hopefuls trying to gate-crash press viewings. After a tempestuous first day, organisers Sunday imposed reservations-only access until after lunch every day.

Little surprise, since the huge show, bringing together 180 works from five decades in the life of the father of modernism, is the largest such exhibition for 60 years.

Connoisseurs will not come away disappointed: the show includes a host of versions of Baigneuses (the great bathers) and no fewer than 14 versions of the "master of Aix's" famous Mont Sainte Victoire landscape.

Collections worldwide have been raided for the exhibition, which spans five decades of his work from his dark moody beginnings in the 1860s to his definitive Les Grandes Baigneuses, painted in the year of his death in 1906.

In between are some of the most famous experiments in modern art, pointing the way forward to Fauvism, Cubism and beyond in works that led Picasso to describe him as "the father of us all."

Held to coincide with the centenary of his first Paris exhibition in 1895, the show is the fruit of a collaboration between the Grand Palais, London's Tate Gallery and Philadelphia's Museum of Modern Art.

The 21 million franc (\$4 million) exhibition runs in Paris until January 7, before heading off to London from February-April next year, and Philadelphia from May until August.

The chronologically-arranged show — a courageous decision, since Cezanne was notoriously lax in dating his pictures — begins in the less well-known realms of his 1860s output, where erotic themes couple with sombre and dramatic painting to



A woman sitting, waiting patiently while reading a magazine, in the line in front of the Grand Palais for the opening day of the Paul Cezanne exhibition. This is the biggest retrospective for Cezanne since the 1930s (AFP photo)

produce strongly romantic pictures.

The growing influence of Impressionist contemporaries like Pissarro and Monet soon lightens the provenance master's palette, however, and outdoor subjects begin to abound by the 1870s.

The exhibition, which includes 109 oils, 42 watercolours and 26 sketches and studies, is divided overall into five sections corresponding to the decades in Cezanne's career.

It is not until the 1880s however that Cezanne's pioneering work really takes off, as he combines the Impressionists' lessons

with experiments in form and composition that were to prove his most lasting gift to 20th century art.

The culmination of Cezanne's career provides the piece de resistance of the Paris show. Dominating the final gallery of the Grand Palais, the 1906 Baigneuses, on loan from Philadelphia, is worth the entry ticket on its own.

But wait, the show isn't quite over yet. One interesting aspect of the centenary retrospective is that you don't have to actually go to an art-gallery to experience it.

Through the wonders of modern technology, the organisers have created a

CD-ROM, entitled Me, Paul Cezanne, which allows the debutant art-lover to explore each canvas in intimate detail without leaving his or her computer-screen.

Or for that matter there is the create-your-own Cezanne: A collection of specially-commissioned yellow, brown and red bowls and jugs, as seen in the master's work.

Combined with strategically placed apples and pears, you can bring Cezanne's still life's to real life.

Perhaps those in the enormous queues outside the Grand Palais should be told something.

Paris talent seeks fame in the vineyards

By Christopher Burns

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
DURAS, France — As the sun sets over vineyards, lights go up on a stage erected in front of a chateau, where a coquettish widow plays cat-and-mouse with eager suitors.

The audience, a mix of locals and tourists, is delighted by the production under the stars, a hilarious and lively portrayal of Carlo Goldoni's The Shrewd Widow.

While the Festival D'Avignon and its hundreds

of shows is the best-known outdoor event in France, there are myriad productions whose curtains don't fall with the leaves.

And provincial theatre is more than a weary selection of campy annual town plays, it attracts talent from Paris by offering opportunity to the up-and-coming.

"It's great to walk through the fields and past the cows and then you're on the stage, in the open air," said actress Marie Piton, who brilliantly plays the seductive widow Rosaura.

"And it's nice to get away from Paris for awhile," she said, sipping the local white wine as she sat on the front of the stage while stagehands started dismantling the backdrop.

The play was part of the annual festival in Duras, an hour's drive east of Bordeaux, that included Baroque and big band music, choirs and plenty of wine-tasting.

The theatre company that produced the play, Les Baladins En Agenais, is based in the tiny southwest-

ern town of Monclar, where the troupe lives in a rustic dormitory.

"Even if most of our work is in the provinces, we don't have any amateurs," said actor-director Roger Louret, 45, who was the intensely wacky Harlequin in the Goldoni play.

Louret's company also has produced The Twist Years, playing at the Folies-Bergere in Paris, and he says he depends on talent from Paris such as Piton who are looking for a career boost.

Welfare luring Ireland's urban poor to repopulate rural west

By Karin Davies
The Associated Press

KILMILHILL — Fleeing with her family from the crime, drugs and poverty of Dublin, Sharon Murray was at first a fearful pioneer in an experiment to resettle the urban poor in rural Western Ireland.

The wind howled in winter. With no buses and no car she had to hitchhike to buy food. The thick country accent was hard to understand, and relatives were far away in the bustling city. "You'd put your nose out the door (at night) and it would be pitch black," the 29-year-old mother of three recalls.

A year later, Mrs. Murray and her husband are off welfare and have steady incomes and a new rented home. Their children are thriving.

"Now I have a car, Sharon has a car and I've opened a shop," said Larry Murray. "Everyone's so friendly here. In Dublin you keep to yourself, here you can't."

They are among the 194 families that have been

helped to move to rural villages, mostly in sparsely populated Western Ireland.

Not everyone adjusts to country life. So far, 29 families have returned to cities, disillusioned with country life, lonely or even split by the strain. Continued problems with drug and alcohol abuse contributed to some failures, said Paul Murphy, who runs the programme, Rural Resettlement Ireland.

But 3,650 families are on the waiting list to move west, waiting four years or more for their turn.

Rural decline is widespread in Europe. The number of farm workers in the 15-member European Union has fallen by 5 million since 1975, largely due to mechanisation. As young people leave the countryside for better opportunities, so do shops, services and schools.

The resettlement programme was the brainchild of Jim Connolly, a sculptor who works on a wild, windswept finger of land between the River Shannon and the Atlantic. He wondered why this beautiful but

empty landscape couldn't be filled with poor families from overcrowded Dublin.

Work is scarce, but there isn't much in cities either, Mr. Connolly thought. Ireland's unemployment rate is 14.6 per cent, the second worst in the European Union after Spain.

People are on the dole," Mr. Connolly said. "People in a no-hope situation can move and have nothing to lose."

They can receive welfare just as easily in rural areas, and give their children a clean, safe environment and uncrowded classrooms — and perhaps improve themselves, Mr. Connolly decided.

When he shared his idea on a popular radio talk show in 1990, the response was immediate. Families packed their bags and some turned up unannounced at the bus stop in his village. Mr. Connolly found houses for them.

He says the "blow-ins" — as newcomers are nicknamed — are reinvigorating Western Ireland. "It's like dropping a pebble in a pool," Mr. Connolly

said. "The ripples go out in all directions as the families begin to integrate. They spend money at shops, contributed to music, drama and youth groups. Their children keep schools open."

But Kate Ryder, a researcher at Queen's University of Belfast who is studying the programme, said the economic benefit to villages appears to be slight.

"The only thing that I felt was benefiting was maybe the local shop... but not really anything other than that," Ms. Ryder said.

Dole checks average 125 pounds (\$200) a week, and 61 per cent of recipients pay rents of 21 pounds to 30 pounds (\$34 to \$50) a week, and most of what is left goes for food, heat, light, transportation and telephone calls, she said.

Mr. Murphy, the programme's administrator, counters that resettled families have brought an extra 1.2 million pounds (\$1.92 million) to the areas where they have been resettled, including 600,000 pounds (\$960,000) spent to buy houses this year.

The arrival of new families also has kept village schools and churches open, and required the hiring of extra teachers.

Despite significantly higher rents and food prices, poorer housing and services, all 30 settlers surveyed in a 1993 study viewed moving to western Ireland as beneficial.

In five years, rural resettlement Ireland has grown from a corner of Connolly's back porch to a portable office in Kibbaha, on the top of loop head, 250 kilometres (160 miles) west of Dublin.

Three-quarters of administrative costs are paid by the Irish government. Donations, mostly from America, cover the remaining expenses. The American Irish fund, headed by Tony O'Reilly, chief of H.J. Heinz Co., is expected to contribute \$100,000 this year.

The office is run by Mr. Murphy, a former Dublin bus driver whose family was the second to be resettled by Mr. Connolly. Now, the only traffic jam he sees is a herd of cows.

Mr. Murphy matches landlords who had despaired of renting vacant houses with urban families. The numbers underscore the challenge: In 1981, before the potato famine, loop head had 13,000 people. Just 1,300 people live there now.

Despite the high vacancy rate, Mr. Murphy said his job was tough at first. "It's easier now that 'blow-ins' have settled and been accepted. Landlords used to ask, 'are they on drugs?' and 'will they rob us?'"

Even after housing is found, not all moves are successful.

Mr. Niamh Mackenzie and her husband left Kildare, 210 kilometres (130 miles) southwest of Dublin, after 18 months because their dream of starting a business failed, and they found life in the country too costly.

"It was more expensive for us because we didn't have a car and we were shopping at the local shops, which are dearer," said Mr. Mackenzie, 26. "The public transport system in the west is poor... and the cost of

buses is outrageous." They're now living in Bray, 16 kilometres (10 miles) south of Dublin, where their bakery business, cakes of distinction, is taking off.

Of those who have stayed, about half of the parents have found at least part-time work, and about 15 per cent are in retraining programmes. They've also taken on volunteer posts like choir director, soccer coach, arts and crafts instructor.

Mr. Brian Harvey, a government consultant who studied the programme, said it has "achieved much in a very short period of time," and is unlike anything else in Europe.

While retirees and middle class commuters have revived parts of rural Europe, Ireland's programme targets the poor and attacks two crises, urban crowding as well as rural decline, he said.

The Murphys are among rural resettlement's successes.

The family of five recently moved from an old, isolated farmhouse into a modern, three-bedroom

place in the village of Kilmihil. Within a year, they hope to buy rather than rent their home.

The eldest of three children, Laurence, 7, has blossomed with the attention he gets in school — his two-teacher school has just 27 students, compared to as many as 37 per teacher in Dublin.

Larry Murray, who was jobless in Dublin, rented space to open a tiling business and recently won a contract to retille a school. Mrs. Murray sells skin-care products in her spare time.

In Dublin, after a four-year wait, the Gelston family recently reached the top of rural resettlement's waiting list of 3,500 families, the family of six, plus four hens, rooster, cat and dog, moved to county Mayo.

As they prepared to leave Dublin, gritty soot drifted from a tire factory across a railway line into the Gelstons' backyard. Chickens scratched in a dirt patch hemmed by brick walls.

"There's really nothing here for the kids — or for us," said Jackie Gelston, 31. "We're not leaving much."

Suharto at 74: In complete control and looking at another term

By Kenneth L. Whiting
The Associated Press

JAKARTA — His supporters do not shout out for "five more years" — that would be considered brash in conservative Indonesia — but all indications are that President Suharto plans another term starting in 1998.

After presiding over 29 years of economic growth and enforced political conformity, there is no clear sign of when Asia's longest-serving leader might step down or who might succeed him.

He has been in control so long, and his influence is so strong, that the succession question casts a shadow over every important issue in the world's fourth most populous country.

At age 74 and in apparent good health, President

Suharto appears at the peak of his official power and no longer drops coy hints about stepping down.

He was reelected unopposed in 1993 by the People's Consultative Assembly, in theory the country's top policy-making body. In fact, Mr. Suharto rules through cabinet ministers and department heads directly responsible to him.

The son of a poorly educated farmer, Mr. Suharto enjoys a reputation for personal integrity. But his children have been accused of taking advantage of the family's name and connections to enrich themselves through government contracts and official monopolies.

A former opposition lawmaker, Sri Bintang Pamungkas, frequently raised questions about government corruption and called in 1994 for a limit on presidential terms.

"Democracy has been dying for a long time," Mr. Pamungkas said earlier this year, before he was expelled from parliament at the request of his own party.

He had become a liability because of his accusations that Mr. Suharto stamped out dissent by constantly invoking the need for national unity, one of the five principles of the official state ideology, "Pancasila." The other planks are monotheism, humanitarianism, democracy by consensus and social justice.

Questioning Pancasila is political suicide in Indonesia and accusing someone of doing so is a sure way to discredit them.

Since there is no obvious successor to Mr. Suharto, much interest is focused on the vice president, who would take power if he died in office.

General Try Sutrisno, former armed forces chief, now holds the mostly ceremonial position. Gen. Try, 59, is the sixth vice president to serve under Mr. Suharto and none of his predecessors was allowed a second term.

Sudomo, chairman of Mr. Suharto's supreme advisory council, hinted at the same treatment for try when he said in May that the president preferred a civilian as his next vice president.

Potential vice presidential candidates among civilians include Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie and Information Minister Harmoko.

Another possibility is businesswoman Siti Hardjanti "Tutut" Rukmana, Mr. Suharto's eldest daughter, who is a member of the ruling Golkar Party's executive committee. Who eventually succeeds

Mr. Suharto may be less important than how it happens, because Indonesia has never had a peaceful political transition in 50 years of independence.

Mr. Suharto, a career soldier, rose to power after crushing a communist-backed coup against his predecessor, President Sukarno, in 1965. About 300,000 people, mostly ethnic Chinese, died in the turmoil accompanying Mr. Suharto's takeover.

His achievement since then has been to weld together a country of 13,677 islands whose 200 million people range from an American educated elite to near-stone age tribes.

Starting with an economy near collapse at the end of the Sukarno era, Mr. Suharto has built up an industrial base with oil wealth and protective trade barriers. Indonesia also

transformed itself from the world's largest rice importer to self-sufficiency in the staple food by 1984.

Mr. Suharto's supporters say the authoritarian nature of his "new order" government created the stability that allowed Indonesia to prosper.

Stability has come at a price, however. Most political activity has been stifled or, as in elections every five years, carefully controlled. Police permits are required for meetings of more than five people, a relic of Dutch colonial rule. The press exercises self-censorship under the threat of closure.

Indonesia was widely criticised for the army's massacre of unarmed protesters in East Timor in 1991, but it rejects Western insistence on a single worldwide concept of human rights.

Qadhafi visits expellee camp

(Continued from page 1)

meeting in New York. "There are contacts going on to try to solve the problem but it seems they have not reached any results," Mr. Musa said.

Col. Qadhafi renewed the expulsions last week after reportedly agreeing to stop them under pressure from the PLO and Arab countries, which have harshly criticised what they call a propaganda play by Libya.

By deporting the Palestinians, Col. Qadhafi wants to show that the PLO-Israel accord is a sham, failing to account for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians whose families fled at the creation of Israel in 1948. The future of those refugees is to be left until the last stage of Israel-PLO talks starting next year.

At the speech, hundreds chanted and called on Col. Qadhafi to defy the "new imperialism." Palestinian women, standing near the green military tents, ululated every time he brought up the Palestinian issue.

"Increase your defiance, oh lone hawk," the crowd chanted. "We are always behind you, and we only want you."

"The Palestinian people are still refugees," Col. Qadhafi said. "Even I can protest and live with you in your tents. I can bring my own tent and put it next to yours."

Col. Qadhafi, who earlier toured the make-shift camp in a Toyota Landcruiser amid tight security, promised to build a city at the border if other Arab countries did not allow them to enter. He invited Palestinians in Lebanon and Syria to come as well.

"If the gate remains closed and you are established here, we will give you food, build schools and hospitals and bring the world to witness your plight and your issue," he said.

He urged Egypt to open its border to the Palestinians. Col. Qadhafi, dressed in a safari suit and sunglasses, spoke for about an hour-and-a-half. He blew kisses to the crowd.

He left the border after the speech. Surprisingly, there was no sign of opposition to Col. Qadhafi, despite bitter complaints by Palestinians at the camp in recent days over the expulsions and the treatment they received inside Libya.

Col. Qadhafi's appearance had been rumoured for two days, but was expected to

take place at the Libyan town of Misael, about 10 kilometres west of the border. Earlier Wednesday, Libya closed its border, apparently for security reasons.

The United Nations has appealed to Col. Qadhafi to stop the deportations, which Libya insists are voluntary. In Ramallah, in the West Bank, supporters and Islamic opponents of Mr. Arafat, in a rare show of unity, heaped scorn on Col. Qadhafi on Wednesday for what they called the "transfer" of Palestinians from Libya.

"This is a collective transfer which is taking place in a strange way in an Arab country," Yahya Yakhlof, director-general of the Palestinian Culture Department, told a news conference.

"It is a new dagger that is added to the body of the Palestinian people," said Sheikh Hassan Yousef, who spoke on behalf of the Islamic movement.

"President Qadhafi's step only pressures the Palestinian people to accept even something worse than what we are already in," said Mr. Yousef, referring to the Israel-PLO peace moves which Islamic groups regard as a sell-out. "Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon must grant our Palestinian brothers travel documents so that they can stay temporarily in those countries to wait for their return to the homeland," said Ahmad Diek, a senior official in the Fateh movement.

Mr. Diek addressed several dozen Palestinian intellectuals and officials from Mr. Arafat's self-rule government. A member of Mr. Arafat's cabinet, Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo, was to speak, but did not show.

In Damascus, a Palestinian official denied reports that Syria was mediating with Libya to stop the mass deportations.

"We did not ask Syria to intervene with Tripoli to stop the move of expulsions," said Khaled Al Fahoum, head of the Damascus-based Palestinian National Salvation Front, an umbrella group of groups opposed to Mr. Arafat.

But he described the expulsions as "painful and harmful, especially since Israel is refusing entry to most expelled Palestinians" into the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

He also urged Lebanon to "reconsider" its refusal to grant entry to deportees.

Promotion of diplomacy urged

(Continued from page 12)

roundtable conferences and the organisation of Jordan Week in Japan.

The first roundtable conference was held to discuss the human dimension of the unfolding Middle East peace process. This took place in November 1994, and brought a variety of people of international stature and experience to Amman for two days to explore the issue of how the high politics of the peace process affected ordinary people, the ID statement said.

The second roundtable conference, held in December of 1994, discussed the issue of Islam, the West, Rights and Human Rights. It was co-organised with Rights and Humanity, a human rights advocacy organisation based in the U.K. and Switzerland, and brought

together human rights advocates, diplomats, parliamentarians and academics from around the world, the ID statement said.

Jordan Week in Japan, which took place in May 1995, included many activities, but had as its core a one-day symposium on Jordanian-Japanese relations, co-organised with the Middle East Institute of Japan, and a discussion of Japanese policies vis-à-vis Jordan and the wider Middle East.

The institute is now embarking on work on the formation of a curriculum and plans to approach the endeavour of acquiring and disseminating knowledge of international affairs in three ways: through teaching and training, the establishment of a data base, and study and research. Committees have

been formed to consider the curriculum and study plans, the data base and library, and financial and administrative affairs, the ID statement said.

A building for the institute has been acquired. Six books are being prepared, one in English and one in Arabic on each of the three conferences.

The ID itself has also taken an active role in international conferences, notably the Diplomacy 2000 conference held by the Diplomatic Academy in London in April 1995, the annual conference of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) at the Hofburg in Vienna (September 1995), and the annual meeting of the directors and deans of diplomatic academies and institutes of international relations at the Diplomatic Academy — also in Vienna and also in September of this year.

Iraq rejects partial oil sale

(Continued from page 1)

efforts to mobilise resources to help the situation," he told reporters.

Russian cooperation

Iraqi officials are in Moscow to discuss implementing an agreement with Russian oil companies to develop the Iraqi Al Qurna oil field, Russian oil sources said.

The agreement, which was signed on July 3, covers development of the oilfield in the south of Iraq once the United Nations has removed sanctions currently applied against Iraq.

The biggest Russian oil company, Lukoil, has won responsibility for 70 per cent of the work. The Zarubezhneft and Mashinimport companies, each won 15 per cent.

Executives at Lukoil declined to confirm that the Russians were in Moscow and did not make any comment.

When the agreement was signed, Russian oil sources said that a feasibility study would have to be carried out by the end of this year, raising the possibility that the arrangements for the project might be delayed.

Journalist remains in custody

(Continued from page 12)

of Iraqi top military expert Hussein Kamel and his call from here for overthrowing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The detention of Mr. Ne'matt caught most journalists by surprise, especially that it took place prior to referring the case to court and pressing charges against him.

The trial of Mr. Ne'matt has already prompted foreign press watchdogs to demand the immediate release of the journalist who also corresponds for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Arabic radio.

The Paris-based Reporters Without Borders has

Before the United Nations adopted sanctions against Iraq, Mashinimport had begun work on 60 per cent of the first stage of the project at a cost of about \$280 million.

Much of Iraq's trade was with Russia it now owes Moscow \$10-\$16 billion. Moscow is applying pressure for an easing of the embargo and in June made a preliminary agreement with Iraq for the development of oil fields with capacity of more than one million barrels per day.

Kurdish feud

Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani said in Damascus that Iran is seeking to mediate a peace treaty between his forces and a rival Kurdish faction, a move that Baghdad has condemned as unwarranted interference in Iraqi affairs.

The Iranian effort was apparently launched to counter a U.S. attempt to bring the feuding Kurdish factions together to rescue the Iraqi National Congress, the American-backed umbrella for anti-Saddam movements which has been seriously weakened by the intra-Kurdish conflict.

Mr. Talabani, head of the leftist Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said that delegations from the PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party led by Massoud Barzani met in Tehran last month in a bid to settle an 18-month-old conflict.

The fighting, in which thousands have been killed, has ravaged the self-rule Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq, seen by many as an embryo Kurdish state. Talks were renewed in Tehran Tuesday.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to strongly protest Tehran's efforts, terming it a "flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs."

"Extending invitations to the Iraqi Kurds responsible for the abnormal situation prevailing in northern Iraq confirms Iran's insistence on interfering in Iraq's internal affairs," the agency quoted a ministry spokesman as saying.

Mr. Talabani said that the Clinton administration submitted "positive proposals" to the PUK and KDP to "find common ground" to cement the outline agreement reached Aug. 11 in Ireland between political delegations from both factions.

Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

West Bank, which he said was "glorified" by the media.

Palestinian control still does not extend over enough territory, and it does not adequately provide a homeland for Palestinians living outside of Israel, Mr. Bouez said.

Israel has agreed to withdraw troops from most cities in the West Bank, but will continue patrolling areas between them.

"Doesn't the isolation of these tiny specks within a security area mean there will be more prisons in which Palestinian rancor will fester?" Mr. Bouez said.

Mediators chase Bosnia peace

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Gligorov, 78, lay in hospital in Macedonia's capital Skopje with an international team treating him after he received severe head and eye injuries (see page 4).

Macedonia arrested several people after the blast but has not identified them. There has been no claim of responsibility.

There were reports of fighting across Bosnia. The Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA said four Bosnian

Serb civilians were wounded, three seriously, in government artillery attacks on the Trnovo area southeast of Sarajevo.

Bosnian government radio

said the government army had taken two villages in the Mostar region in Herzegovina and forced Serb soldiers to retreat.

Heavy artillery and infantry attacks were reported in Sanski Most in the northwest, the radio said, adding that government lines in the area were stable.

Reports have indicated an increase in fighting in the last couple of days despite Mr. Holbrooke's hectic diplomatic efforts.

In northwest Bosnia the Serbs made significant battlefield gains, capturing villages around the town of Kljuc in territory taken by government and Croat forces last month.

Peace boosts Israeli-Arab energy cooperation

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (R) — Israel and its Arab neighbours, buoyed by breakthroughs in Middle East peace talks, are forging plans for a network of cross-border gas pipelines and regional electricity grids, Israeli oil managers said on Wednesday.

Israel, which has very limited proven oil and gas deposits of its own, is turning to imports of natural gas from Egypt to meet future gas demand in its power generation sector and to help put a brake on its growing imports of coal and oil.

A pipeline will be ready for first phase exports of gas

from Egyptian gas fields in the Nile Delta and Mediterranean to Israel and the Palestinian territories as early as 1998, the managers said.

The line will also extend into Jordan under an energy agreement reached with the Israeli government in July last year.

The major benefit will be the introduction of natural gas to Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians. Cheaper electricity would be produced, Amos Ron, president of Haifa-based consultants Ronaetel told Reuters during an energy conference

held in the Cyprus coastal town of Limassol.

Egyptian gas supplies will be the first regular imports of gas into the Jewish state and, depending on peace talks between Israel and Syria, tanker supplies of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar could be supplied by the next decade.

Electricity generation in Israel is currently dominated by coal and fuel oil feedstock which are imported from international markets.

Gas use in Israel has the potential to rise from less than 100 million cubic metres a year now to 2.8 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 1999 and

over five bcm by 2010 through industrial growth and a switch away from fossil fuels in power generation, according to Mr. Ron, a former director general of Israel's ministry of energy and infrastructure.

Projections of higher energy demand are prompting Israel to look at other schemes ranging from renovating a pipeline linking Haifa and oil fields in northern Iraq to digging a 230 km canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea to generate hydro-electric power.

"The line to Haifa is not still physically there but the infrastructure and the right of

way of the line is still there. It has a great potential for the future," Mr. Ron said.

The line, built by the Iraq Petroleum Company, was shut off to Israel in 1948 because of the war in Palestine while a World Bank supported feasibility study on the Red-Dead Sea canal will be completed in six months but take between 10 and 15 years to bring to fruition.

More tangible evidence of the peace process is an electricity line being completed between the Jordanian town of Aqaba and Eilat in Israel to allow both states to use the line at times of peak demand.

This is expected to be extended to the Egyptian town of Taba as a prelude to a wider grid interconnection between the countries.

The exploration for indigenous oil and gas deposits in Israel is being stepped up to meet higher demand, the Israeli oil managers said.

Drilling at Israel's Heletz oil field and the Arad gas field is about to resume in an attempt to jump start domestic oil and gas output, according to Samih Mishiri, chairman of the board at the Israel Oil Producers Corp. Ltd (LAPIDOTH).

Israeli oil output is limited to just 100 barrels per day.

Kuwait MPs seek more expats to boost economy

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait should make it easier for foreign workers to bring in wives and children to boost the economy and help stabilise the Gulf country's male-dominated expatriate community, an MP said on Wednesday.

"This will be good for our society because it will make it more stable and balanced," Adnan Abdul-Samad told Reuters. "We have too many foreign bachelors here and this situation poses many kinds of dangers for our society."

Almost one million of the Gulf country's 1.8 million population are foreign guest workers, the majority of them men from Egypt and Asian countries.

They replaced Palestinians who fled or were expelled during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis amid Kuwaiti accusations that they aided Iraq's seven-month occupation.

Unlike the Palestinians, most of the new expatriates do not keep their families or financial assets in the country, largely because of strict residency rules introduced after the 1991 Gulf war to try to reduce reliance on foreign manpower.

Merchants complain that this policy has resulted in a reduction of the consumer market. Some lawmakers allege the bachelor-dominated expatriate community is responsible for much of an upsurge in rape cases reported since the conflict.

American firm gets ADNOC contract

ABU DHABI (R) — The Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (ADNOC) has awarded an engineering contract to expand its Ruwais oil refinery to a unit of the U.S. firm Fluor Corp., an industry source said on Wednesday.

"The FEED (front-end engineering and design contract) has been awarded to Fluor Daniel," the source told Reuters.

ADNOC officials declined to comment.

Industry sources said the contract was worth \$40 million and would give its winner an advantage when bidding for the \$1.8 billion overall expansion deal.

"This amount is not a lot but it is prestigious when considering that the winner is eligible to bid for the EPC (overall engineering, procurement and construction tender)," the source added.

Abu Dhabi produced most of the oil in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has an

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries quota of 2.161 million barrels per day (bpd).

The expansion of the Ruwais refinery is one of the largest oil projects being carried out in the Middle East. It will double the plant's crude processing capacity from about 130,000 bpd and allow it to make more light oil products.

U.S. companies Foster Wheeler and Dresser Industries Inc.'s M.W. Kellogg Co. were also contenders for the FEED contract.

An industry source said the fact that three U.S. companies were top competitors for the deal pointed to better chances for American firms to clinch future deals in the Gulf Arab state.

"This is a signal. The American companies are winning," said the source.

The Supreme Petroleum Council (SPC),

which is responsible for UAE oil policy, approved the Ruwais expansion in January after years on the drawing board. Overall work is expected to take at least three years to complete.

The final cost of the expansion depends on what facilities are added. Most sources gave estimates of around \$1.8 billion, which amounts to the SPC approved budget.

The expansion work is part of ADNOC's plans to spend billions of dollars on projects designed to boost output capacity, meet increased gas demand and improve its infrastructure over the next five years, said industry sources.

Six or seven U.S.-based companies have made presentations to ADNOC on managing the project, including Bechtel, Parsons Corp. and Halliburton Co. Unit Brown and Root, industry sources say.

IMF seeks cash for war chest

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and its rich allies find themselves in an unusual position this week — depending on the generosity of other nations to help fund a \$50 billion war chest to combat future world economic crises.

Faced with tight domestic budgets that contain little room for extra outlays, industrial nations admit they have little choice but to turn to emerging economic powerhouses in Asia and elsewhere for billions of dollars in support.

But as economic policymakers prepare for a series of international meetings that start here this week, it is not clear whether they will get it.

"There is a willingness to discuss this," said one Asian monetary source, who declined to be identified. "But the devil will be in the details."

When Mexico came to the brink of default on its foreign debt at the start of this year, the United States and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) teamed up in a \$50 billion economic rescue package to head off a global crisis.

But Washington has made clear that it is not prepared to play a similar role again while the IMF has said its resources would be stretched if it had to

participate in another rescue.

The answer, according to the United States and its allies, is to beef up the emergency finances available to the global lending agency.

Washington and 10 of its industrialised allies — Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland — are already committed to providing the IMF with some \$25 billion in credit lines through the so-called General Arrangements to Borrow (GAB).

They want to double that figure, but are only prepared to put up some of the extra money themselves. That is where other countries, including Australia, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Spain and Thailand, come in.

Some of the those same countries were approached to provide money to the IMF for the Mexico bailout, but none agreed. But the countries hope that this time will be different.

Finance ministers and central bank chiefs from the 11 allies are expected to agree on Sunday on an outline offer to try to entice the other nations into participating in a new lending arrangement parallel to the GAB.

Many of the details are likely to be left open, including how much money will be sought from each country, pending negotiations in the coming months.

Several Asian monetary sources saw that as a good sign.

The last thing that the new economic powerhouses want is to be dictated to and treated as "second class citizens" that provide the money but do not get the power, one source said.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus has proposed his own scheme for beefing up the agency's emergency resources.

The agency would depend on a network of credit lines from selected member nations, but Mr. Camdessus, not the countries themselves, would have most control of the purse strings.

Not surprisingly, the 11 countries do not like that plan and Camdessus himself is not particularly pressing it as he prepares for the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank here.

Saudi bank reports 9-month profit

MANAMA (R) — Saudi Investment Bank (SAIB), one of Saudi Arabia's smaller banks, said on Wednesday its net profit in the first nine months of 1995 grew to a record 62.2 million riyals (\$16.6 million).

A bank statement said SAIB made a \$3.4 million riyals (\$14.2 million) net profit in the first nine months of 1994.

The Riyadh-based bank is owned by Saudi shareholders and several Saudi and foreign banks including Chase Man-

hattan Corp CMB.N and Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd.

SAIB, the second Saudi-based to report its nine-month results, said it had allocated an unchanged 15 million riyals (\$4 million) provision for possible loan losses.

Shareholders' equity climbed to 490.6 million riyals (\$130.8 million) at end-September from 414.8 million (\$110.6 million) a year earlier.

Total deposits rose to 5.97 billion riyals (\$1.59 billion)

from 4.76 billion (\$1.27 billion). Total assets grew to 7.82 billion riyals (\$2.08 billion) from 6.22 billion (\$1.66 billion).

SAIB was the second bank operating in the kingdom to report higher net profit in the first nine months of 1995.

On Monday, United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB) announced a 1.7 per cent increase in net profit for the first nine months of 1995 to 235.9 million riyals (\$62.9 million) from 231.9 million (\$61.8 million).

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitten

ACROSS

- Thin sheet of metal
- Page of music
- Beaver constructions
- St. —'s fire
- Oak beginning
- Charles Lamb
- Tiny part
- With a valid will
- Splendid residences
- Voice vote
- Albacore and yellowfin
- Digit ending
- Non-permanent workers
- Ashtabula waterfront
- Snare
- Average
- Buttons
- Stripped
- Consumed
- Accustomed
- Meadow
- "Peter Pan" pirate
- Fabler of note
- Pen
- Brave one
- Pale
- Clique
- Finds
- Marquand novel
- Dill herb, old style
- Jeans material
- Nora's pet
- Backtalk
- Blissful abodes
- Straw beehive

DOWN

- Latvian
- Author Wiesel
- Electric units
- Amount of film
- Fashioned
- Suffer
- Gout target
- Cause to stumble
- Peruvian of yore
- Adulterated
- Author Waugh
- Bog
- Droops
- Actress
- Dunaway
- Very happy
- Nominal
- Church calendar day
- Castle or Dunne
- Spider's nest
- Gymnast's goal
- Home of the Dolphins
- Eucharistic plate
- Weather word
- Beetle larvae
- Leave
- Md. neighbor
- Rats
- Musical compositions
- Complained
- Rate of movement
- Janeiro
- Auditors: abbr.
- A Chaplin
- Evens the score
- Meat cut
- Elephant tooth
- Art Deco name
- Break
- Comp. pt.

GLASBERGEN

"Hello, Crisis Center Hotline? I can't find my remote control!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KUYDS
CIKHT
BADCT
LEKECH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BOUGH LOGIC JANGLE ENDURE
Answer: What successful bakers end up doing — ROLLING IN DOUGH

Peanuts

"Your eyes are beautiful," he said.

"Shall I compare them to a summer day? No, even more."

"Your eyes are like two supper dishes."

Andy Cap

SEE YOU, PET?

AT ONE TIME YOU'D HAVE SAID CHERRIE OR WITCH YOUR STEP OR KEEP OUT OF BAD COMPANY?

CAN YOU SEE HIM EVER REARRANGING INTO ANYONE WORSE THAN HIMSELF?

I TRUST YOU, PET!

Mutt'n'Jeff

OK, I'LL TAKE OUT A \$20,000 LIFE POLICY ON MY PAL, JEFF!

FINE! I'LL HAVE TO ASK HIM SOME ROUTINE QUESTIONS!

ARE YOU AND YOUR TWIN BROTHER, JULIUS, THE OLDEST OF YOUR FAMILY? OK! NO! MOM AN' POP WERE OLDER!

WHAT NATIONALITY ARE YOU?

I DON'T KNOW! THEY SAY I'M SCOTCH!

SCOTCH? WHY?

CAUSE I'M SAVING ALL MY TONS FOR MY SECOND CHILDHOOD!

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get busy making collections, payments and reports during the daytime today and be conscientious tonight in home affairs.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be sure to compromise with an associate who is as stubborn as you and come to a fine understanding so that you be very successful in your duties.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have many duties ahead of you today, so concentrate on them and don't try to take on any more responsibilities that you can possibly handle.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Some recreation you were relying on may have to be put off until a better time today, so don't let this bother you in some activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Much stress is possible at home today if you do not take a more patient stance and be more understanding with your mate for greater harmony.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day for communicating with others in an ideal way, so contact them and get much accomplished. Avoid problems which could exist.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You want to commit yourself to some practical matter today, but this is not the right time or day for that or there will not be any success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't try to be forceful if you can't get conditions moving as you would like today, but be patient and persevering towards the completion of any task.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You may have a private worry which could keep you fretting if you permit today, so get busy at whatever is practical and accomplish a good deal instead. Be kind.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Concentrate on making right plans for whatever it is you have to do today for some time to come. Socialize with young people.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be prepared to answer questions which bigwigs put to you and come up with flying colours today, improving your career thereby.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You had better get more information before you take on that new interest which appeals to you today and then you can be successful.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Know what the expectations of kin are and try to please them today. Show that you are a devoted family man towards your loved ones.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A family tie and one in the outside world can pose a problem today, but don't take it seriously or there could be complications. Discuss it calmly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The morning starts slowly at your activities, but later they pick up speed and you gain much efficiency today. Look for a monetary windfall.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Forget that expensive entertainment plan you have in mind today and be content with whatever you can afford or you could be in serious financial problems.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be more concerned with the needs of your family today and to please them. You can have a fine time with them later in the evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't be so concerned with minutiae today that you lose sight of the big issues which are more important and profitable towards your success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't let a friend take you away from important business at hand, and later today confer with a bigwig who can be of assistance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Keep out of the public eye today and avoid some kind of criticism treaded your way. Delve into practical interests which you will find enjoyable.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't involve yourself today in a disagreement between a partner and a bigwig, but keep busy at practical affairs you participate in.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use only your best judgement in important matters at this time since your hunches could be way off base now. Be careful in expenditures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Some situation may arise which could tempt you to act in a startling fashion today, but refrain and get busy at practical affairs.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be off to the interesting new outlets which appeal to you today and do very little dull activities, since you can gain your aspirations at this time.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

Business & Finance

HOROSCOPE

CAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1995

Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrology Foundation

ES: (March 21 to April 19) Busy making collections, reports and doing the housework today and the weekend.

RIS: (April 20 to May 20) Be sure to compromise with the rate who is as stubborn as a mule and come to a fine understanding with you.

ONE: (May 21 to June 20) Have many duties ahead of you today, so concentrate on responsibilities that you possibly handle.

IN CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 20) Some recreation and fun may have to be sacrificed for a better time today, but this is better than no time at all.

GO: (August 21 to September 20) This is a good day for communicating with others in a way, so contact them and much accomplished.

RA: (September 21 to October 20) You want to come to some practical agreement, but this is not the day for that or there is any success.

REPIO: (October 21 to November 20) Don't try to be a hero if you can't get on moving as you would like, but be patient in trying towards the end of any task.

TTARIUS: (November 21 to December 20) You may have to wait which could be frustrating if you permit that, but at whatever is planned to accomplish a good deed, be kind.

RICORN: (December 21 to January 20) Concentrate on right plans for where you have had in mind a time to come. Socialize with young people.

JARIUS: (January 21 to February 20) Be prepared for questions which appear to you and come up with a colorful, lively, impressive career thereby.

ES: (February 21 to March 20) You had better get on with it before you take a new interest which appears today and then you can be satisfied.

CAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1995

Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrology Foundation

ES: (March 21 to April 19) What the expectation is, and try to please the family man towards the end of the day.

RIS: (April 20 to May 20) Be sure to compromise with the rate who is as stubborn as a mule and come to a fine understanding with you.

ONE: (May 21 to June 20) Have many duties ahead of you today, so concentrate on responsibilities that you possibly handle.

IN CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 20) Some recreation and fun may have to be sacrificed for a better time today, but this is better than no time at all.

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business daily beat
A review of economic news from the Arabic press

TCC reaps JD 125m in 9 months

The revenues of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) in the first nine months of this year totalled JD 125 million, according to Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Saraireh. Mr. Saraireh said the revenues were expected to total JD 160 million by the end of the year. (Al Ra'i)

The Central Traffic Committee called for the establishment of a public shareholding transport company to operate passenger vehicles between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The committee, which met Monday under the chairmanship of Interior Minister Saleh Hamad, called on citizens willing to establish such a company to call at the Traffic and Licensing Department of the Ministry of Interior to study specifications and present their offers before Oct. 21, 1995. The committee set the company's capital at no less than JD 10 million. (Al Ra'i)

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi said Jordan was currently helping the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in establishing a department to monitor banks operating in the Gaza Strip. Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ, which coordinates with the

PNA in issues related to opening branches for Jordanian banks in the self-rule areas, has an inspection team in the West Bank and Gaza to monitor the works of Jordanian banks there. (Al Ra'i)

The number of cheques that bounced during the first seven months of this year totalled 263,800, worth JD 238.1 million, compared to 235,900 cheques worth JD 204.4 million during the same period of 1994. (Al Ra'i)

Unemployment in Jordan currently stands at 18.8 per cent, according to Civil Service Commission (CSC) and Statistics Department figures. According to CSC figures, 111,059 Jordanians are still registered as jobless. Of the total number, 34 per cent are in Amman. Statistics Department figures show that there are 1,036 million workers in the Kingdom, meaning the workforce constitutes 25.2 per cent of the total population. (Al Ra'i)

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing has this year opened 2,238 kilometres of agricultural roads in various parts of the Kingdom at a total cost of JD 6 million, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ehsour. (Al Ra'i)

Amendments to the trade protocol signed between Jordan and Egypt are expected to be introduced after the conclusion of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, sources at the Ministry of Industry and Trade said. The sources said

Morocco sells hotel for \$1.5m

RABAT (R) — Morocco sold a three-star hotel for 13 million dirhams (\$1.5 million) to a Moroccan businessman as part of its privatisation programme, the privatisation ministry said on Wednesday. Situated in the central city of Taza, the Friaout Hotel has a total capacity of 58 rooms. It was owned by the state-run Office National Marocain du Tourisme (ONMT). The ministry identified the buyer as Abdellatif Abouhafa, a Moroccan businessman who promised to renovate the hotel and respect the rights of its workers. The sale brought to 17 the total number of hotels sold since 1993.

U.S., Japan imperil free-trade plans in Asia-Pacific

TOKYO (R) — Officials representing half the global economy gather in Tokyo later this week to thrash out a free-trade plan for Pacific Rim leaders to sign when they meet in Osaka next month. But Japan's reluctance to free its rice trade and U.S. go-slow tactics dictated by domestic politics could derail this week's talks and scupper the November summit, diplomats close to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) talks said on Wednesday. "At this stage the meetings in November are as likely to fail as they are to succeed," said an official representing one of APEC's richest members, who asked not to be identified. APEC groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, South

Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States. Senior officials of these countries are due to meet in Tokyo from October 9-13 to lay groundwork for the APEC summit in Osaka from November 16 to November 19. One problem, the official said, was Japan and three other APEC members opposing freeing domestically sensitive agricultural sectors, while the U.S. team lacks official authority to negotiate

as its congressional mandate has expired. "China, Chinese-Taipei (Taiwan), South Korea and Japan are all reluctant to liberalise their agricultural sectors... and though the Japanese are the least vocal about this they seem the most unbending," the official said. A Japanese foreign ministry official involved in the APEC talks dismissed the criticism. "We are not opposed to the full liberalisation of the Japanese agricultural sector," he said. "It's just that at this stage we cannot commit to it."

The exclusion of agriculture from an agreement would have little impact on Pacific Rim trade, said the first official, but it could set a nasty precedent which weakened APEC. "It's important that there are no exceptions in the (free-trade) agreement because it would then encourage us to take out our sensitive sectors, the U.S. to take out its... It snowballs and the whole APEC exercise becomes less worthwhile," the official said.

APEC, founded in 1989, is trying to implement the Bogor declaration adopted in Indonesia in 1994. It called for the abolition of trade barriers by 2020 for developing member economies and by 2010 for industrialised member economies, but did not outline how to achieve the goals. Since Japan began its year chairing APEC it has won praise for pushing hard to add meat to the Bogor agreement. In particular, it has called for the adoption by

November of a framework and timetable for joint liberalisation on issues that include industrial standards and intellectual property rights. However, the U.S. APEC team has started dragging its feet on the framework's implementation, suggesting it should be delayed until next year's APEC meeting in the Philippines — to the dismay of Tokyo which expected other members to judge its leadership by whether the framework is adopted.

German court rules Leeson can be extradited

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — A Frankfurt court on Wednesday authorised the extradition to Singapore of Nick Leeson, the futures trader who broke Barings, Britain's oldest investment bank. But the ruling does not mean immediate extradition of Mr. Leeson, because the federal government in Bonn will have to review the file. Attorney Eberhard Kempf, Mr. Leeson's defender, said the court approved extradition on 11 of 12 charges of fraud, forgery and breach of trust. Mr. Kempf said he would appeal the ruling to Germany's highest court, the Federal Constitutional Court.

"We have no other legal option," he told reporters. Frankfurt prosecutor Hans-Hermann Eckers said at a separate news conference the German government would likely wait on making an extradition decision until the high court rules on the appeal. The earliest Leeson could be sent to Singapore is mid-to-late-November, and the high court's deliberations could even go into next year, Mr. Eckers said.

But the prosecutor said in his view "the objections of Mr. Kempf have little chance." Mr. Leeson's British attorney, Stephen Pollard, said Wednesday's ruling "appears in various respects to be inconsistent and wrong in law."

In a statement faxed from London, Mr. Pollard said an appeal will be filed with Germany's highest court "within the permitted one-month time limit." Lawrence Ang, director of

Singapore's fraud squad, said he was "pleased that the German court... is satisfied that the Singapore government has made out its case against Leeson for extradition." If he is extradited, tried and convicted in Singapore, Mr. Leeson faces a maximum 14 years in prison.

Mr. Leeson, 28, spent millions on unauthorised trades on the Tokyo market which he ran through a concealed account as general manager of Barings Futures (Singapore) Pte Ltd. The 232-year-old Barings bank collapsed in February when Mr. Leeson's losses hit about \$504 million. The debt soared to \$1.8 billion in the next few days as markets plummeted.

Barings, which was bought in March by a Dutch company, Ing Group, has been criticised for not supervising Mr. Leeson and transferring millions to him without question. Mr. Leeson was arrested in Germany March 2 as he tried to fly to Britain to avoid trial in Singapore.

He has offered to plead guilty to charges in Britain, but so far authorities there have declined to seek his extradition. Last week, however, bondholders who lost money in the collapse of Barings filed criminal charges in Britain against Mr. Leeson. It was unclear whether the Home Office in Britain would proceed with the charges and set up a dual of extradition requests for Mr. Leeson.

Mr. Kempf said Mr. Leeson was not happy with Wednesday's ruling, "but he has to live with it." The lawyer said he had met briefly with his client to inform him of the decision.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607172
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 04/10/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	NEW CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN BANK PSC	540	133580	248.000	247.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2565	11387	4.430	4.450
BANK OF JORDAN	1280	4383	3.500	3.510
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2440	3122	1.290	1.280
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	10200	24072	2.360	2.360
JORDAN KIWAT BANK	487	1347	2.770	2.780
JORDAN GULF BANK	152980	181997	1.200	1.200
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	6247	23175	3.730	3.710
BUSINESS BANK	3000	10450	3.480	3.490
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2250	8356	3.740	3.710
BEIT ALHAJ SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1100	2743	3.380	3.400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	31200	28848	950	930
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	250	390	1.580	1.560
BANKS SECTOR	236339	463098	INDEX NUMBER: 196.83	CHANGE: -0.32%
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	300	270	2.710	2.700
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	59800	143520	2.420	2.400
THE NATIONAL ASSIA INSURANCE	500	1500	3.000	3.000
INSURANCE SECTOR	60400	145290	INDEX NUMBER: 127.07	CHANGE: -0.13%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	14066	22105	1.550	1.540
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1380	7898	5.800	5.850
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	200	526	2.630	2.630
INDUSTRIAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	20650	20650	2.940	2.920
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1075	1160	1.080	1.080
MACHINERY BLDG. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	2000	1340	0.670	0.670
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODITY HOTELS	1100	2552	2.340	2.320
ARAB PETROLEUM INVESTMENT & ASSOCIATION	11000	23175	3.730	3.710
JORDANIAN EXPRATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	200	234	1.170	1.170
SARAKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	1250	1650	1.330	1.320
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	26500	26380	1.060	1.060
SERVICES SECTOR	68841	122032	INDEX NUMBER: 127.00	CHANGE: -0.07%
ATTACHEE CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	3000	3600	1.200	1.200
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	8032	28745	3.600	3.880
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	123	370	3.020	3.020
THE ARAB POTASH	1500	7152	4.790	4.800
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	2694	25585	9.600	9.500
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	2400	3480	1.470	1.450
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK MILLS	750	5625	7.500	7.500
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1956	9387	4.800	4.800
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1200	7170	5.980	5.900
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2000	14583	7.300	7.200
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	1325	5892	4.500	5.210
LIVERPOOL & LONDON	104300	74545	7.120	7.120
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2700	3694	1.450	1.430
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	6000	6496	1.100	1.090
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	3250	5820	1.780	1.780
JORDAN SILICO-CHEMICALS	2100	2858	1.360	1.360
ARAB CENTER FOR FARM. & CHEMICALS	550	1156	2.100	2.100
RAVIER INVESTMENT	500	615	1.650	1.630
UNIVERSAL RESOURCES INDUSTRIES	1700	5410	3.190	3.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6050	10050	2.010	1.980
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	1550	2514	1.640	1.610
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	11850	16600	1.420	1.400
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRIAL	250	503	2.050	2.010
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	164570	242458	INDEX NUMBER: 124.03	CHANGE: -0.51%
GRAND TOTAL	530150	972839	INDEX NUMBER: 160.36	CHANGE: -0.41%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	1	162785		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	1	195335		

Financial Jordan Times
Markets In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 3/10/95	Tokyo Close Date: 4/10/95
Sterling Pound*	1.5835	1.5800**
Deutsche Mark	1.4390	1.4407
Swiss Franc	1.1396	1.1400**
French Franc	4.9580	4.9650**
Japanese Yen	191.46	191.80
European Currency Unit	1.2880	1.2878**

Source: Reuters
* USD for STD
** European Quotes @ 100 U.S. DOLLARS

Exchange Rates in Jordan Date: 4/10/1995

Currency	1 MYR	3 MYR	6 MYR	12 MYR
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.43	6.43	6.43
Deutsche Mark	3.81	3.87	3.81	3.87
Swiss Franc	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18
French Franc	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.62
Japanese Yen	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52
European Currency Unit	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

Source: Reuters
* USD for STD
** European Quotes @ 100 U.S. DOLLARS

Financial Markets Date: 4/10/1995

Financial Markets	USD/USD	JD/USD	USD/USD	JD/USD
Gold	382.85	7.50	51.94	0.100

Source: Reuters
* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 4/10/1995

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7130	0.7130
Sterling Pound	1.1352	1.1388
Deutsche Mark	0.4944	0.4969
Swiss Franc	0.6137	0.6168
French Franc	0.1435	0.1442
Japanese Yen	0.7012	0.7047
Dutch Guilder	0.4416	0.4438
Swedish Krona	0.0999	0.1000
Italian Lira*	0.0440	0.0442
Belgian Franc	0.0999	0.1000

Source: Reuters
* For 100

Other Currencies Date: 4/10/1995

Currency	Buy	Offer
Lebanese Lira*	1.1750	1.1880
Lebanese Lira*	0.043525	0.044580
Small Riyal	0.1896	0.1911
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3830	0.3850
Qatari Riyal	0.1946	0.1960
Egyptian Pound	0.2600	0.2610
Omani Riyal	1.8460	1.8520
UAE Dirham	0.1934	0.1945
Greek Drachma*	0.2785	0.2785
Cypriot Pound	1.5145	1.5155

Source: Reuters
* For 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

	One U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
	1.3310/20	1.4392/02
	1.6116/26	1.6116/26
	1.1594/04	29.58/62
	4.9625/75	1613.7/5.2
	101.22/32	6.9640/40
	6.3160/10	5.5805/55

	One sterling	One ounce of gold
	\$1.5798/08	\$382.60/383.10

	Deutsche marks	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
	1.4392/02	1.6116/26	1.1594/04	29.58/62	4.9625/75	1613.7/5.2	101.22/32	6.9640/40	5.5805/55	

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Indurain storms to first world title

TUNJA, Colombia (AFP) — Spaniard Miguel Indurain stormed to the first leg of a world championship double here on Wednesday when he won the 42km time-trial gold.

The five-time Tour de France winner, who also competes in the road race here on Sunday, crushed all comers as he covered the distance in 55 minutes 30 seconds to take his first world title.

The 31-year-old finished a full 48 seconds clear of Abraham Olano, who made it a Spanish one-two.

Olano, who finished second in last month's Tour of Spain where he dominated the time trials, did at least hang on gamely after losing 43 seconds over the first half of the course but he was no real threat to Indurain, an against-the-clock specialist.

Indurain said: "This is the first time I have worn a world champion's rainbow jersey. It wasn't the toughest race of my life. I stayed composed throughout."

The bronze went to Germany's Uwe Peschel, 2min 03sec off the pace while fourth place went to Duvan Ramirez of Colombia, over three minutes back.

Scot Graeme Obree, the 4km pursuit gold winner here, was third after the first 5km, 12sec behind Indurain, but he fell back to finish an exhausted 21st, 5:46 behind the winner.

After the event, Indurain, who is expected to challenge for Tony Rominger's one-hour world record soon, was mobbed by fans.



Edmundo involved in brawl

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A South American Supercup quarter-final ended in an ugly brawl involving Brazilian striker Edmundo, who is nicknamed the Animal.

Flamengo were 3-0 up against Velez Sarsfield of Argentina in injury time on Tuesday night when Edmundo — who had scored one goal and set up another — slapped defender Zandonata after being hit by the Argentine's elbow in a challenge for the ball.

Zandonata responded with another slap and then punched the Brazilian striker to the ground. Within seconds, the match degenerated into a fight with players and coaching staff from both teams swapping punches and kung-fu kicks.

Dozens of police separated the two sides before referee Ernesto Fillipi ended the match.

"If they want a fight then they'll get a fight," Flamengo manager and radio commentator Washington Rodrigues said after the match.

"This is the kind of thing we expect from the Argentines," said Romario who complained of rough treatment during the game.

Manchester United crash out of English League Cup Ferguson gracious in defeat

YORK, England (AFP) — Manchester United Manager Alex Ferguson accepted his side's second cup defeat in a week with grace on Wednesday night and said that York City deserved to win their league cup tie.

York lost 3-1 on the night but won 4-3 on aggregate. Ferguson, who saw United lose in the UEFA Cup last week, said: "York fought very hard for their victory — the same way they did at Old Trafford."

"We were casual and we suffered for it — I have no complaints."

Ferguson added: "We had enough chances to win on the night but York worked down the left and they deserve their glory."

Delighted York manager Alan Little, brother of Aston Villa manager Brian, admitted: "It was a case of survival. They surprised us with the way they played early. They were very direct and we were struggling."

"But the goal came at the right time for us."

That's the way they have been of late — if they conceded goals then they don't know what to do.

Inevitably, Eric Cantona — playing his first away match since that fateful night at Selhurst Park in January when his kung-fu-style kick on a Crystal Palace fan resulted in an eight-month world-wide ban — took centre stage.

The flamboyant Frenchman took just six minutes to make his mark on the tie, picking out Paul Scholes' intelligent run inside the box which the youngster finished off emphatically.

Eight minutes later, United added a second with Scholes sending Andy Cole racing away down the left and the seven-million-pound striker picked out Ryan Giggs.

The Welsh international flicked the ball through for Terry Cooke, advancing on the right, and he finished to claim his first senior goal for his boyhood idols.

But in the 38th minute, York pulled a goal back.

Paul Barnes, who scored twice in the first leg, ran past Gary Pallister inside the box and, although he was halted by Steve Bruce's timely sliding tackle, Scott Jordan pounced on the loose ball to fire past Schmeichel.

It meant United needed another two goals even to take the tie into extra time and, despite providing chance after chance, they fell short.

The Frenchman became more influential as the match wore on, firing a superbly-executed 61st-minute volley from Scholes' deep cross just wide of the target.

And, just as United were beginning to become frustrated, Scholes swooped on Cole's centre to hit a deflected shot past 19-year-old keeper Andy Warrington.

It meant United needed one more goal in the final 11 minutes to earn extra time and, although Warrington saved at point blank from Cole in the dying seconds, York were the deserved winners.

Kasparov takes commanding lead in world chess championship

NEW YORK (AP) — Titleholder Garry Kasparov powered his way to victory over challenger Viswanathan Anand in the 14th game of the Professional Chess Association world championship Tuesday after a frantic time scramble.

Following Kasparov's victory, his fourth in five games, Kasparov leads the match by an overwhelming 8.5-5.5 points.

"The match is still on, but I think the fight for the title is over," Kasparov said after the game. "The match goes on and anything can still happen."

But he acknowledged having won Tuesday's game after an exciting zigzag battle that could have gone either way. Anand gained an advantage with his opening, and was so hopeful of winning that he refused a draw on the 16th move.

"I don't think he deserved to lose today," Kasparov said.

A win scores one point and a draw a half-point. The winner of the contest needs 10.5 points. In the event of a 10-10 tie, Kasparov retains his title.

Anand faces the uphill task of winning four and drawing two of the last six games.

After Anand gained an advantage in the opening, Kasparov complicated the position with his 28th move.

"It was an amazing move that exposed both kings and blew the position wide open," said British grandmaster Daniel King.

The claps and shouts from the 500 spectators on the 107th floor of the World Trade Centre where the games are played reached such a fever pitch the noise penetrated the specially designed soundproof booth where the players face off.

After the game, both players complained to match arbiter Carol Jarecki.

"Visy was upset and I think he's absolutely right," Kasparov said, adding: "You can't stop the game. You can't move it."

During the games, spectators listen to a commentary from leading grandmasters. shout out their own suggestions and occasionally break into loud applause.

The commotion caused Kasparov to grimace and put his hands in the air and then over his ears. It came at a crucial moment in a complicated time scramble where the game could still have gone either way.

"Gary looked at me and said, 'you've got to protect us.'"

Jarecki told reporters, referring to the differing needs of the crowd and the players. She said anand had complained that the noise level resembled an amateur tournament.

Playing black, Anand

opened with the obscure centre counter or Scandinavian defence and a surprised Kasparov quickly drifted into an inferior position. On the 16th move, Anand refused a draw and began to squeeze Kasparov.

Kasparov instituted a desperate attack queenside before lasting out with a dramatic knight sacrifice on his 27th move.

When Anand mistakenly refused to take the offered knight, Kasparov attacked on the kingside, creating a wild position that experts found difficult to predict.

"I looked at Visy and he looked at me and we both realized this was the turning point," Kasparov said. "He lost track."

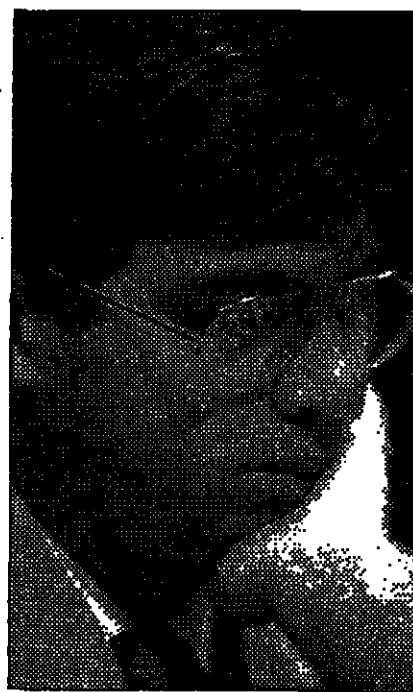
With both players running short of time, Kasparov traded the queens, eliminated Anand's counterplay and won a crucial pawn.

In a losing situation, Anand resigned after the 41st move.

The 15th game is scheduled for Thursday, with Anand playing the advantage of the white pieces.

The winner of the contest will receive \$1 million and the loser \$500,000, but the fund will be split if the match is tied.

Kasparov, 32, who lives in Moscow, has held the world championship since 1985. Anand, 25, comes from Madras, India.



Viswanathan Anand



Garry Kasparov

Nuremberg dump Bremen out cup

BONN (R) — Second division Nuremberg dumped Bundesliga giants Werder Bremen out of the German Cup late Tuesday.

Bremen midfielder Mario Basler looked to have settled the third round tie early on by setting up a goal for Vladimir Beschastnikh and then looping in an inspired lob from 16 metres in 20th minute to give the 1994 cup winners a 2-0 lead.

But Nuremberg, already conquerors of Bundesliga side Hansa Rostock, got

their just reward for concerted pressure shortly after halftime when Joe Max Moore scored from a free kick and then set up a goal for Markus Kurth 10 minutes later.

Minor league Homburg beat 1860 Munich of the Bundesliga 2-1, and to complete a trio of upsets East German amateur side Lok Altmark Stendal toppled Waldhof Mannheim of the second division 5-4 on penalties, having drawn 2-2 after extra time.

Bayern Munich coach under further attack

BONN (AFP) — Otto Rehhagel, coach of German league leaders Bayern Munich, came under further attack from his players Wednesday, only a week after French international Jean Pierre Papin had publicly vilified him.

Rehhagel, formerly coach of Werder Bremen, came under fire from Mehmet Scholl, Swiss international midfielder Alain Sutter and Austrian striker Andreas Herzog who came with him from Bremen in the summer.

All have been unable to get in to the first team.

Sutter, worried about retaining his international

place, said: "The affair is solely between me and the club," while Scholl said he had been "treated like a child and my future does not belong here."

Karlheinz Rummenigge, former German international striker and Munich vice-president, reacted angrily and said: "This is unacceptable. We will not allow the coach's authority to be challenged."

Rummenigge added that none of the rebels could expect to be released from their contracts.

Papin said last week that he was fed up at not playing.

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NOTICE TO POLISH NATIONALS

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Amman invites the Polish nationals residing in or visiting Jordan to take part in the first round of the elections of the President of the Republic of Poland.

The polls will be open on Sunday, November 5, 1995, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Chancery of the embassy, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle, Mal Ziyadeh Str. Tel: 637153/4

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HANDLE WITH CARE

North-South vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 10
♥ Q J 3
♦ Q J 10 7
♣ A 10 4

WEST
♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ A K Q 8 5
♦ 9 8
♣ Q 7 5

EAST
♠ 9 6
♥ J 9 7
♦ 8 6 5 2
♣ J 9 8 6

SOUTH
♠ A J 6 2
♥ 10 6
♦ A K 4 3
♣ K 5 2

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

As a rule, you need an eight-card fit for an adequate trump suit, and a 4-4 fit is more flexible than 5-3. However, a 4-3 major-suit fit, known as a Moysian fit after the late Alphonse "Sonny" Moys, who espoused it fervently in *The Bridge World*, can handle nicely as long as one is careful not to lose trump control.

After South's one-spade response, North has nothing better than a spade raise despite holding only three cards in the suit and flat distribution. South might have tried three diamonds (forcing, of course) as a probe for three no trump rather than jump to game, but as the cards lie, four spades is clearly the best and only makeable game. (If you want to play five diamonds, we'll defend.)

Missing six cards in a suit, the normal break is 4-2. Bear that in mind and the spade game presents no problem. West starts with three rounds of hearts and, if declarer ruffs the third, the contract will be defeated. West will ruff a diamond with the long trump and declarer will have to lose a club trick eventually.

The secret is to retain trump control by discarding a club, a trick you must lose anyway, on the third heart. If the defenders persevere with a fourth heart, declarer ruffs in dummy and, as long as spades break no worse than 4-2, the rest of the tricks are there for the taking.

Note that it does not help for West to shift to another suit after cashing two heart tricks. Declarer always has 10 tricks — four spades, four diamonds and two clubs.

TODAY AT

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PHILADELPHIA

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& Jessica Lange... in

Rob Roy

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 699238
PLAZA

Sandra Bullock
& Bill Pullman
in

While You Were Sleeping

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 677420
CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Adel Imam & Yusra
Birds of the Darkness
(Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:45

CONCORD "2"
POLICE ACADEMY
"MISSION TO MOSCOW"

Shows: 4, 6, 8, 10

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box and, although he
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The winner of
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\$1 million and a
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The final will be
if the match is
Kasparov, 12
lives in Moscow
held the world
championship
1985. And
come from India.

SHANGHAI (R) — Nearly
200 companies and state
organisations in the south-
west province of Yunnan
have set up China's first
joint-stock soccer club, the
Soccer Newspaper reported.
The Yunnan Tianyuan soc-
cer club, with a registered
capital of 20 million yuan
(\$2.4 million), was estab-
lished in the provincial cap-
ital of Kunming Sept. 28,
the newspaper said in its
Monday edition, seen in
Shanghai Wednesday.
Half of the money is com-
ing from the Tianyuan inter-
national commercial service
group, the rest from other
companies and government
organisations, it said.
The new club will take
part in the second division
of China's professional soc-
cer league in 1996 and aims
to become a premier team in
China and famous in South-
east Asia, the newspaper
said.
The club already has
30,000 members in the
province, with 23 associa-
tions in the Kunming area, it
said.
Since the formation of
China's first professional
soccer league in 1994, the
sport has gained in popular-
ity and attracted the atten-
tion of big businesses,
which sponsor many of the
teams.
China's first division pro-
fessional soccer league has
12 teams.

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Sports

Russia's women redeem men; Romania and U.S. still in lead

SABAE, Japan (AP) — Russia's women redeemed a dismal performance by their nation's men at the World Gymnastics Championships Wednesday, bumping China off third place, but left Romania and the United States unchallenged as leaders.

Stunningly dressed in pink and black, Russia started with a 9.537 by Natalia Bobrova on the beam and never looked back, showing grace on the floor, power in

the vault and control on the bars for a total 191.408 points.

That left Romania still leading with 192.570, followed by the U.S. team 0.848 point behind. China dropped to fourth at 190.819.

The other teams will try to catch defending champion Romania in optional exercises Thursday through Saturday that determine the team champion and 36 finalists for the individual all-around

World Gymnastics Championships

title. Russia's Dina Kochetkova, all-around bronze medalist in 1994, bumped America's Shannon Miller, the 1993 and 1994 champion, from second place in individual standings. Kochetkova stood at 38.762, with Miller 0.063 point behind. Gina Gogean of Romania stayed on top with 38.799.

But among the men, Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine — once the Soviet team's backbone — performed erratically, leaving Japan, China, the United States and Romania on top.

Russia's men, second only to world champion China in 1994, scored just 276.537 points in the compulsory and stood 11th out of 24 teams competing. Only Dmitri Karbonenko, standing 22nd, and Evgeni Chabaev, 40th, appeared to

give Russia a chance of reaching the individual all-around finals. Alexei Voropaev, the silver medalist in 1994, stood 51st after the compulsories this time. Belarus, whose team narrowly missed a bronze medal in 1994, was hurt by the loss of Alexander Shostak, who broke his arm two days before the competition began.

Belarus stood eighth at 278.061, and coach Vladimir Vatkini said it would be difficult to finish higher than sixth.

Ukraine, the 1994 bronze medalist, placed fifth in the compulsories, scoring 279.274. Three Ukrainians were among the top 36 individuals, but Igor Korobchinski, the sixth highest scorer in 1994, fell off the horizontal bar and stood 45th at 54.750.

Going into the optionals, Japan had 282.060, leading China by 0.012 point, the U.S. team by 1.724 points and Romania by 2.086.

There also was no change in the top two men, with Li Xiaoshuang of China, at 56.987, ahead of Japan's Hikaru Tanaka at 56.800.

Vitaly Scherbo, winner of six gold medals at the 1992 Olympics, moved into third

with 56.674.

Still Scherbo, who lists picking mushrooms among his hobbies, summed up his performance with one word: "Bad."

Scherbo's teammate, defending champion Ivan Ivankov, stood 61st, and scored 7.275 on the bar after falling.

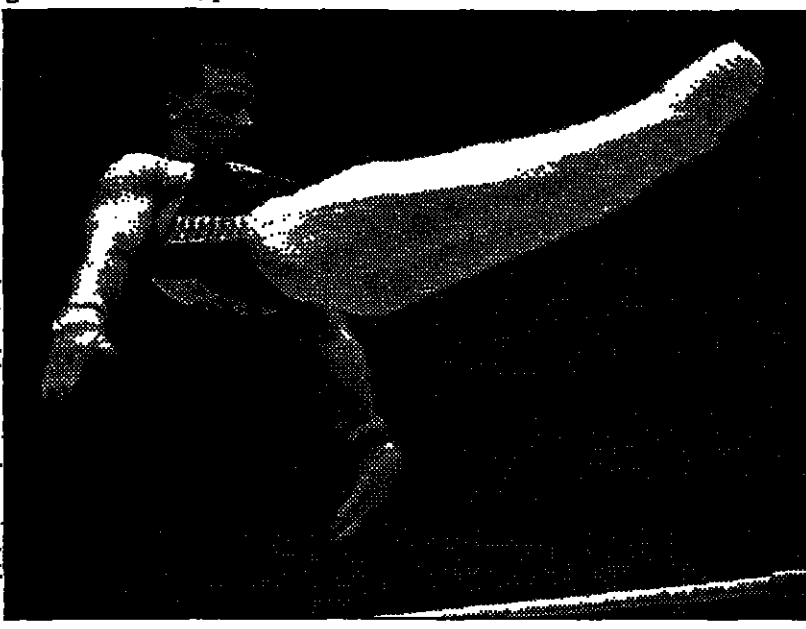
Coach Vatkini said Ivankov was treated in Israel and Germany for a shoulder injury this summer and then hurt the other shoulder, disrupting his pre-championship training.

"He wasn't really ready," Vatkini said with obvious disappointment.

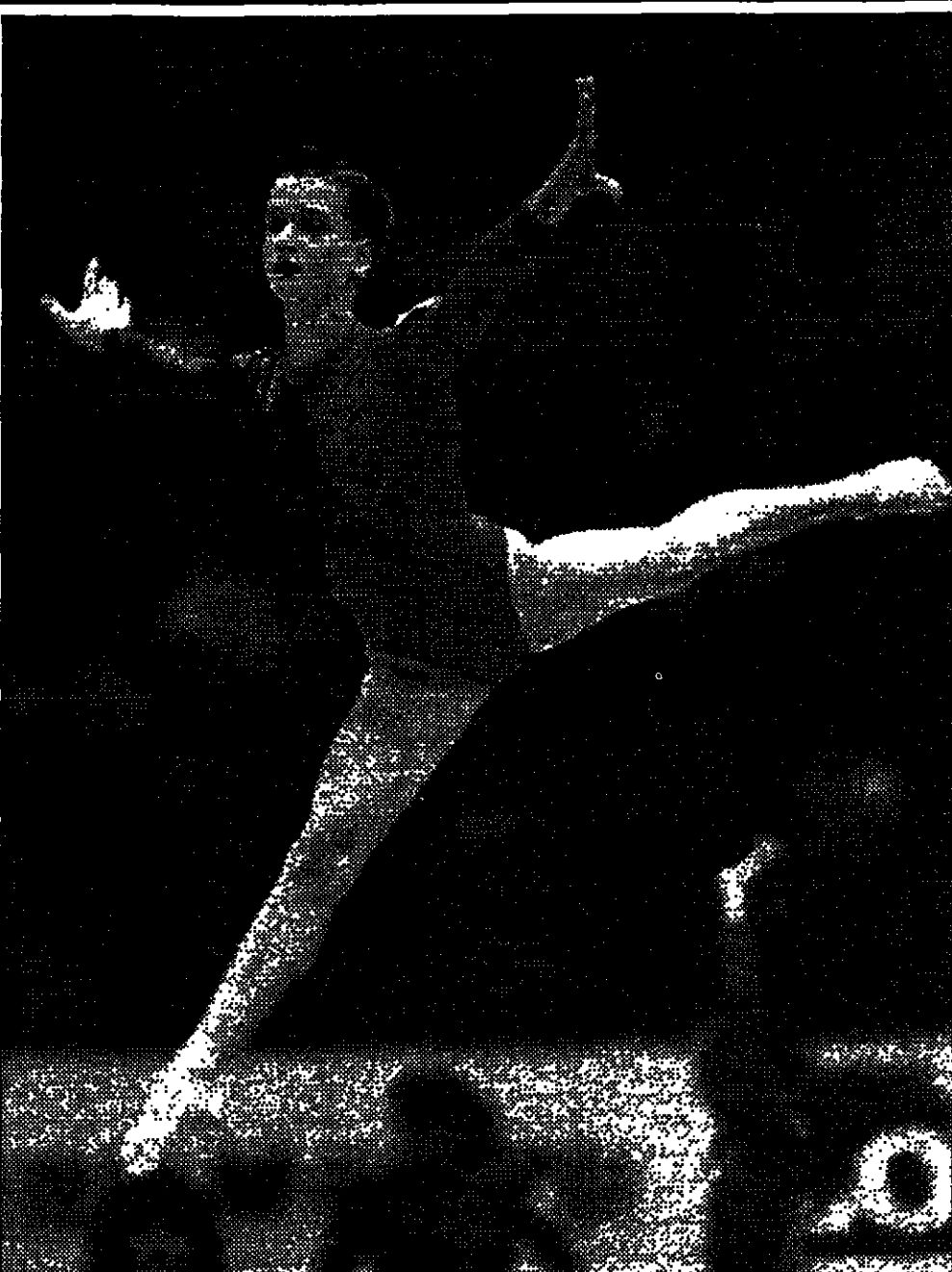
But Belorussian Vitaly Rudnitski stood 36th, giving him a chance for the all-around contest.

Russian coach Alexandre Genkin said his team was not feeling fresh, maybe because they overtrained. He said he hoped for an improvement in the optional events. Delegation head Leonid Arkaev, coach of the former Soviet team for two decades, said the team's showing was not related to recent changes in his country.

The Soviet team won the championships eight times between 1954 and 1991, more than any other nation.



Germany's Andreas Wecker twists airborne over the horizontal bar during compulsory in the team competition at the World Gymnastics Championships in Sabae October 4. Wecker scored 9.637 points on the bar (Reuters photo)



Svetlana Chorkina of Russia leaps into the air in the floor exercise at the World Gymnastics Championships team compulsory in Sabae Wednesday. Chorkina scored 9.750 points on the floor (Reuters photo)

Global voting debuts for NBA all-stars

NEW YORK (AFP) — Fans around the world will select the starting lineups for next year's National Basketball Association (NBA) all-star game under an expanded voting procedure announced here Tuesday.

Ten million ballots will be distributed in more than 2,100 stores of an athletic shoe sales firm foot locker in Hong Kong, Australia, Europe and North America.

The global ballots will be printed in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Dutch and English.

Another five million ballots will be distributed in the NBA's 29 arenas starting Nov. 8, the same day they become available worldwide.

Balloting concludes Jan. 12 with the top centre, forwards and guards from each conference forming the starting lineup for Eastern and Western Conference clubs at the all-star showdown in San Antonio Feb. 11.

The total ballot record of 6.3 million cast was set last season and will almost certainly fall, an indication of the increased global attention and marketing of the NBA.

The league improved merchandise sales by \$29 million this year outside the United States to a total of \$400 million, helped in part by the return of Michael Jordan.

Viewing worldwide rose

as well, with the finals seen in 164 nations, 90 more than just four years ago.

The league began the first official fan club outside North America this year in Japan and is building youth sports play areas in China.

Voters in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada and the United States are also eligible for a sweepstakes in which two selected contestants will be given a three-point shot for one million dollars during the all-star weekend.

"The global component and the new million-dollar format should generate even more excitement around this year's NBA all-star weekend."

Seles to play at Australian Open Tournament to feature record prize money

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Monica Seles will aim to win her fourth Australian Open women's singles tennis title in January, tournament organisers said Wednesday.

Seles, who was beaten in the final of the U.S. Open by Steffi Graf, is making a comeback after taking more than two years out of the sport. She was stabbed in the shoulder by a deranged fan in Hamburg, Germany, in April 1993.

Tennis Australia President Geoff Pollard announced at the official launch of the tournament that Seles had indicated she plans to contest the opening Grand Slam event of the year, which will feature record prize money of 9 million Australian dollars (U.S. \$6.88 million).

Pollard said the prize money

was an increase of 11 per cent in Australian dollar terms on that for this year's tournament. Winners of the men's and women's singles will receive equal prize money of \$562,000 (U.S. \$429,000).

He said the tournament would offer double the previous computer points to participants, almost double the size venue and the best field in its 90-year history.

"All the stars have indicated they will be here in January. Every top name is expected," Pollard said.

He said Andre Agassi of the United States and Mary Pierce of France had said they would defend their singles titles.

Pollard said the prize money for women's events would be 90 per cent of that paid to the men,

a ratio higher than any other Grand Slam event other than the U.S. Open.

He said stage two of developments at the national tennis centre, which will add two further stadium courts and eight other match courts, will be completed in time for the tournament, which will run from Jan. 16-29.

The show courts will have seating capacity for 3,000 and 1,500 spectators, giving the venue five permanent stadium courts.

"Come January, we will have the premier tennis venue in the world for the biggest sports event in the Asia-Pacific region," said tournament Director Paul McNamee.

"The construction of stage two, coupled with our recent coup of raising the computer

points and the prospect of a historic field undoubtedly raises our stature to that of a full and equal partner to the other grand slams."

McNamee said the event would be televised free-to-air to around 600 million homes worldwide and would be shown in the United States on the ESPN network. It will again be sponsored by the Ford Motor Company.

Agassi's rivals in the men's singles will include Pete Sampras, Thomas Muster, Jim Courier, Boris Becker and Michael Chang, while Pierce will defend her women's singles title against a field that is expected to include Seles, Steffi Graf, Gabriela Sabatini and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

China gets joint-stock soccer club

SHANGHAI (R) — Nearly 200 companies and state organisations in the south-west province of Yunnan have set up China's first joint-stock soccer club, the Soccer Newspaper reported.

The Yunnan Tianyuan soccer club, with a registered capital of 20 million yuan (\$2.4 million), was established in the provincial capital of Kunming Sept. 28, the newspaper said in its Monday edition, seen in Shanghai Wednesday.

Half of the money is coming from the Tianyuan international commercial service group, the rest from other companies and government organisations, it said.

The new club will take part in the second division of China's professional soccer league in 1996 and aims to become a premier team in China and famous in South-east Asia, the newspaper said.

The club already has 30,000 members in the province, with 23 associations in the Kunming area, it said.

Since the formation of China's first professional soccer league in 1994, the sport has gained in popularity and attracted the attention of big businesses, which sponsor many of the teams.

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POSTPONED
Annual International Bazaar & Family Fun Day

We regretfully announce that the Annual International Bazaar & Family Fun Day for the benefit of Mabarrat Um Al Hussein Orphanage has been postponed from October 6th to November 10th, 1995

The Diplomatic Corps to the Royal Court of Jordan invites you to a day filled with international activities, lottery, games, food & shows for all the family at 10:30 a.m. at Al Hussein Sports City

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Quake-hit Turkish town struggles to survive; deaths rise

DINAR (Agencies) — Attempts were underway to restore basic services as hopes faded Wednesday that any more survivors would be found in this quake-stricken town.

The death toll reached 88 in the magnitude-6 quake which hit Sunday. Rescuers continued operations to reach at least four more bodies believed to be under the rubble.

Meanwhile, signs of normal life in Dinar emerged. Three banks started serving their customers in vans set up at a small park. A few stores opened. Some phone lines were restored and telephones were placed on empty milk carts turned upside down on the street. Street lights came on Tuesday night after utility workers cut off buildings' connections to the main lines to avoid fires.

But people continued to flee for the homes of relatives in other cities. Packed buses left one after another.

"I'm going to stay with my mother-in-law in Antalya for the time being. I don't know when we'll return, who knows when this town will be rebuilt," said Gul Ozdemir, 22, as she held her two-month-old son Gokce.

Ms. Ozdemir's parents left for Aydin, another nearby city, Tuesday.

Some stayed behind. "All my relatives live in

Dinar. And I can't afford to move to some other town and start a new life. I hope the government will help," said Ibrahim Karagoz, a retired civil servant.

Residents were going into damaged buildings to retrieve belongings, ignoring warnings from authorities.

"I know it's dangerous to go in, but we don't have blankets — you know how cold it was here last night. If the government had given us blankets, we wouldn't have to do this," Abdullah Turgut, a retired colonel, said as he brought out bags of clothes from his house.

As his son Ahmet was working through the group floor living room, bricks fell from a wall with a loud crash, sending him fleeing. Nobody was injured.

The relatively low death toll was believed to be due to the fact that many people had left town or were sleeping outdoors after a few moderate quakes shook Dinar last week.

A German rescue team Wednesday spotted one person still alive beneath the rubble of a building, Anatolia news agency reported.

It said rescue teams intensified efforts to reach the person who was understood to be still alive Wednesday after being trapped under the rubble of the Dinar security directorate building for 67

hours following the quake. German, Swiss and Greek teams were taking part in efforts by their Turkish counterparts to rescue quake victims.

"Three people were found under debris today and several more yesterday," an Interior Ministry official said in Dinar.

He said rescue workers were searching for one person believed to be dead under a collapsed building.

"We have no other reports from families of people missing," the official said. "The chances of finding anyone alive now are very low."

The centre of the town, with a population of about 40,000, was scared by rubble from apartment blocks and public buildings after the quake.

A right-wing party has called for an inquiry into the lack of earthquake precautions and reports that public buildings were the first to crumble in Dinar, Anatolia said.

About 3,000 tents have been distributed to homeless residents in Dinar but villagers from nearby areas affected were still without tents, the agency said.

An earthquake killed 330 people in the town in 1925. Turkey's biggest quake in recent years, in the eastern town of Erzincan in 1992, killed more than 500 people.

Regent calls for promoting Jordanian diplomacy and increased interaction

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday called for promoting Jordanian diplomatic action through comprehensive and constructive dialogue with political and economic blocs like the European Union and the North American Free Trade Agreement as well as enhancing the inter-faith dialogue where Jordan is playing a leading role.

In a brief address at the first meeting of the Institute of Diplomacy's (ID) board of directors, the Regent, who chairs the board, said there was a need for qualifying Jordanian diplomats and stimulating their action.

The Regent requested the ID members, who represent various organisations, to benefit from "this pioneering institute" so that it would cover all the required diplomatic activities carried out abroad by military, cultural, information and commercial attaches at the Jordanian embassies.

Present at the meeting were acting Prime Minister



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday chairs a meeting at the Institute of Diplomacy (photo by Boghos)

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and other officials. The meeting heard a report from Dr. Mazen Armouti,

president of the institute, and reviewed the steps taken in the establishment of the institute, its activities to-date and plan of action for the future.

An ID statement said the institute had undertaken various projects, the most important of which were two (Continued on page 7)

Tahitians stage small protest against N-test

PAPEETE, Tahiti (AP) — In the first protest against France's second nuclear test, about 60 Tahitians rallied outside the territorial assembly Tuesday to demand a public debate on the French atomic blasts.

With more than 1,000 police patrolling Papeete since France detonated a blast of about 100 kilotonnes Sunday beneath Fangataua atoll, some 1,200 kilometres to the southeast, the main anti-nuclear and pro-independence groups had forsworn public protests to avoid a replay of the riots that followed the first blast Sept. 5.

But Oscar Temaru, leader of the main pro-independence party Tavini, reversed himself and announced Tuesday that he planned to turn out up to 3,000 people Thursday for a march near the airport in the neighbourhood of Faava.

Officials in Papeete are investigating claims by four trade unionists detained Sept. 9 after the riots that they were mistreated by French police. The unions are key allies of the Tavini pro-independence party.

Amnesty International, the international human rights

monitoring group, said it also looking into claims that electric shocks were used on the men during interrogation.

The wives of the men appeared with Mr. Temaru at his news conference to denounce their alleged mistreatment.

France plans to stage as many as eight nuclear blasts by the end of May before signing a test ban treaty. The detonations broke a three-year-old testing moratorium observed by France, the United States, Britain and Russia.

A Paris newspaper reported Tuesday that a French army map shows the underground test site at nearby Mururoa atoll is full of cracks. Some experts have warned that the atoll could crack and release radioactivity.

The French defence ministry dismissed Le Monde's report as "trivial and whimsical," and said it has the situation at Mururoa under "perfect scientific and ecological control."

Le Monde said the map, drawn in 1980 before about 100 more tests were conducted, showed that "large cracks developed in the structure of the atoll's volcano."

The cracks, the paper said, "reinforce the hypothesis by a large portion of the international scientific community about the possible fracturing of the atoll" that could release radioactivity "in the years or centuries to come and cause a major ecological catastrophe."

The sketched diagram showed several fissures several kilometres long, as deep as 8,500 metres and as much as 3.5 metres wide. There was no information given on when or how quickly the cracks developed.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab Court of Justice may bar non-Arabs

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League officials working to set up a regional court of justice on Wednesday said they were considering a Libyan proposal to bar non-Arabs from the court. The working committee for the Arab Court of Justice met on Wednesday to consider some 12 amendments to the proposed court made by league nations, league spokesman Talaal Hamed told the press. The court is part of a proposed Arab pledge of honour aiming at resolving disputes between Arab nations peacefully which league foreign ministers failed to adopt at their last session in Cairo in September. League sources said the workshop would most likely adopt a Libyan recommendation not to allow non-Arab countries to appeal before the court, even if they had bilateral agreements with member nations.

Rabin asks for delay on PoWs: Mubarak

CAIRO (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is ready to resolve the issue of Egyptian prisoners of war (PoWs) executed in 1956 and 1967, but has asked for a delay, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday. "I had a good discussion on the prisoner of war issue with Mr. Rabin," said Mr. Mubarak, who spoke after attending a museum inauguration. "I asked him to do something because of Egyptian public opinion. Mr. Rabin did not say no, but he asked for a delay," Mr. Mubarak said. "We do not want to create a problem between the two countries and we want it to be resolved as it should," he added. Mr. Mubarak met Mr. Rabin in Washington last week during the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord expanding Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank.

Former Iranian interpreter jailed for spying

TEHRAN (AFP) — A former Foreign Ministry interpreter accused of spying has been sentenced to three years in prison, an official said Wednesday. Hussein Vaghar, arrested in August 1994, has been convicted of "having contacts with foreigners and providing them with information," the head of Tehran revolutionary courts, Ghulam-Hussein Rahbarpour, said. The Iranian news media said after Mr. Vaghar's arrest that he had spied for the United States while serving as an official translator. The Swiss embassy in Tehran, which has also been looking after U.S. interests since Tehran and Washington broke off ties in 1981, served as a go-between, a newspaper said at the time. The paper also charged that the mission had lured Mr. Vaghar into espionage by offering him a woman.

No-smoking law relaxed in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — A new anti-smoking law was relaxed Wednesday to allow smokers to puff at cigarettes in the privacy of their cars. Hussein Al Momen, a Health Ministry official, said the ban on smoking in private cars had been widely criticised as unconstitutional. As a result, the ministry decided to suspend its enforcement for three months and launch a campaign of awareness to explain why smoking in such a closed environment is dangerous. In addition to the possible damage to personal health, some smokers are accustomed to flicking lit cigarette butts out of car windows, causing fires, said Mr. Momen, defending the law. Lighting cigarettes in cars had been prohibited under a strict anti-smoking law that took effect Sunday.

Indonesia to deport Algerian

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia will deport an Algerian national from the eastern province of Irian Jaya as he was found breaking immigration laws, the state news agency Antara reported Wednesday. Toumi Hamid, 26, was caught attempting to leave for Australia on a chartered ship, Antara quoted a spokesperson for the immigration office in Merauke, Irian Jaya, as saying. Mr. Hamid has been given until Oct. 12 to leave Indonesia, Antara said. The Algerian arrived in Indonesia on September 16 and tried to enter Australia via Jakarta recently, immigration officials said.

Sudan, Chad sign border agreement

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan and Chad have signed an agreement on the demarcation of their common border after four days of talks in Khartoum, it was reported Wednesday. The daily Al Sudan Al Hadeeth said the two sides endorsed on Tuesday a report by a joint technical committee on border marks placed in February and on plans for completing the demarcation. The delegations were led by the interior ministers of both countries, Bakri Hassan Salih for Sudan and Mohammad Nouri for Chad.

Journalist remains in custody

By Natasha Bukhari

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Salameh Ne'matt, the Amman correspondent of the London-based Al Hayat newspaper, remained in custody Wednesday as a court of appeal did not decide on his second request for release on bail since he was detained for 14 days Tuesday pending completion of investigations over a report he published on Sept. 20.

Amman's public prosecutor turned down Mr. Ne'matt's first request for release on bail Tuesday and a court of appeal upheld his decision. Mr. Ne'matt's lawyer, Aymen Abu Shark, renewed his attempt to release his client on bail Wednesday, but the public prosecutor denied the request. Mr. Abu Shark appealed the decision another time and the court did not rule on the case by the end of working day Wednesday.

Legal sources said that Mr. Ne'matt will not be able to renew his appeal for release on bail before the elapse of three days if the court of appeal supports the public prosecutor's decision.

Public prosecutor Jamal Al Zu'bi ordered the detention of Mr. Ne'matt after he summoned him to hear his testimony. Mr. Ne'matt is charged with overlooking objectivity and accuracy, harming national unity, inciting crime and planting the seeds of hatred and division among members of society as well as slander and defamation.

On Monday the public prosecutor, in his secret investigation of the charges, listened to the testimonies of Jordan Press Association President Suleiman Al Qudah and columnist Tareq Masarweh.

Mr. Masarweh is the most outspoken of the critics of Mr. Ne'matt's article and had demanded in an article in Al Ra'i newspaper that Al Hayat and its Amman correspondent be taken to court. Mr. Masarweh said he would personally sue Mr. Ne'matt and his paper. But the case was launched by the public prosecutor.

In his article, Mr. Ne'matt quoted "informed" and "official sources" as saying that the government was going to investigate allegations that 42 journalists, writers and current and former officials were receiving bribes from Baghdad, which is trying "to create a Jordanian movement to counter Jordan's support for a change in the Iraqi regime."

Mr. Ne'matt's report came after the defection to Jordan

(Continued on page 7)

Embargo threatens to shut down Iraqi press

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq's state-run daily newspapers could close down because of paper and other shortages caused by U.N. sanctions imposed five years ago, editors said Wednesday.

"The Al Thawra's print-run has dropped between 92 per cent and 94 per cent from 1990 when the daily published 250,000 copies," the ruling Baath Party newspaper's managing editor, Taha Al Basri told AFP.

"We are suffering from huge shortages of paper, ink, spare parts and machinery needed for our printing presses to work properly," Mr. Basri said.

Under U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, Iraq can only import food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies. On a long list of banned products are paper and spare parts for printing presses.

Published in the Iraqi capital are Al Thawra, the English-language Baghdad Observer, Al Jumhuriyah, Al Qadisiyah, Al Iraq, Al Baath Al Riady, and Babel, which is run by Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday.

Al Jumhuriyah's managing

editor Salah Al Mokhtar said his newspaper's "print-run has dropped from 400,000 before the embargo to 15,000" today.

"The newspaper, which used to have 16 pages without counting the weekend tabloid supplement, now only has four pages," Mr. Mokhtar said. "The paper shortage threatens to close down the newspaper by the end of the year."

Although its official price is five dinars, a newspaper usually sells for 50 to 75 dinars on the black market because so few are available. Babel sells for up to 125 dinars.

One dollar was worth 2,000 dinars on the black market on Wednesday.

Iraq's Information Ministry said last year that more than 130 publications had closed down since 1990.

The chairman of the newspaper union in Baghdad, Saad Qassem Hamudi, described the fate of the Iraqi press as "catastrophic."

"The embargo has had a negative impact on Iraqis not only in terms of food and health, but also in terms of information," Mr. Hamudi said.

Yemenis question Algerian suspect

SANAA (R) — An Algerian teacher detained after a shootout in Yemen is being questioned along with other alleged militants suspected of attacking weddings they deemed offensive to Islam.

"The investigation with the Algerian and members of his group has started," Interior Minister Hussein Mohammad Arab was quoted by the official SABA news agency as saying on Tuesday night.

Adam Salahuddin, also known as Abu Abdul Rahman, was captured after a shootout in southern Yemen last week and was taken to the capital Sanaa for questioning.

The minister said charges against the group include resisting arrest, "fomenting sectarianism" and attacking weddings, which some militants say are being conducted in a style offensive to Islam.

Men and women are usually segregated at Yemeni weddings, but sometimes the singing of women is heard through microphones, which some consider a sin, residents say.

The arrests of Salahuddin

and other suspects were the latest in a security clamp-down in Yemen after a series of kidnappings, and attacks on wedding parties and a religious group last month.

Some of the attacks have been blamed on fundamentalist groups while others have been blamed on "sabotage gangs."

The country has been tightening security since its two-month civil war ended in July 1994 when northern troops led by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh crushed southern secessionists.

Three people were killed and six wounded when Yemeni security forces last week clashed with Salafites and his group in Dhalea, about 100 kilometres north of Aden, Mr. Arab said.

Travellers had said four men died in the fighting which erupted as forces surrounded the group's base after residents said they attacked a wedding using guns and a grenade.

There were no reports of injuries among the wedding party.

Iran jails 3 women for killing 2 priests

TEHRAN (Agencies) — An Iranian court has jailed a woman for 30 years and two others for 20 years for killing two Christian pastors and attempting to bomb Muslim shrines in Iran, Tehran Radio said on Wednesday.

It quoted the court president, Gholamhossein Rahbarpour, as saying Farahnaz Anami, a 31-year-old business student and employee of the National Iranian Oil Company, was jailed for 30 years for the murders of Protestant pastors Tateos Michaelian and Mehdi Dihad and for supporting the opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq group.

Butoul Vafaei, 35, and Maryam Shahbazzpour, 31, were sentenced to 20 years in prison for helping in the murder of Michaelian, disrupting public order and supporting the Mujahadeen, he added.

The Iraq-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq have denied having any links with the women.

The court had reduced the sentences from death penalties, since the defendants were women and because the relatives of Michaelian did not press for death sentences, Rahbarpour added.

The three women had confessed to their role in the murders of the clerics and to plotting to bomb a Shiite Muslim shrine and the mausoleum of the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iranian media said earlier.

The Mujahadeen intended to blame Iran's Islamic authorities for the murders in its anti-Tehran campaign in the West, the women said.

The 1994 murders caused widespread concern in the West, where it was feared

that Iran faced a upsurge of religious intolerance.

The Mujahadeen rejected the accusation, saying the trial was staged by Tehran as a plot against the opposition.

Judge Rahbarpour as saying the women were members of the group.

"The sentences of the three were reduced because of the high regard for women in Islam, and because the women in Rev. Michaelian's family had agreed to leniency."

"Otherwise, the sentence would be death," the radio quoted Mr. Rahbarpour as saying.

The three were tried by a no-jury court, but it is not known whether the trial was open to the public.

The women were arrested in July last year reportedly before detonating bombs

they were carrying. Those reports followed a bomb blast at a shrine in Mashhad in which 26 people were killed. That June 20, 1994, explosion has gone officially unexplained.

Iranian officials later said the three women had confessed to murdering Rev. Michaelian of the St. John Armenian Presbyterian Church.

Last week Judge Rahbarpour said the women were suspects in the murders of Dehaj and a third priest, Bishop Haik Hovsepian Mehr. The court apparently did not have enough evidence to convict the women of Mehr's killing.

The three priests were killed after refusing to follow an official directive against proselytising in Iran and criticising the government.

COLUMN

Bardot writes to Mandela to save elephants

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Brigitte Bardot has written to South African President Nelson Mandela criticising the killing of elephants and rhinoceros in the Kruger National Park, a statement said here Tuesday. The former French actress, who now dedicates herself to promoting animal welfare, spoke out against the hunting of the white rhinoceros and the killing of elephants in South Africa's biggest wildlife reserve. She wrote: "South Africa has been notable for its eagerness to relaunch the ivory market. You have succeeded in reopening hunting for the white rhinoceros, thus condemning the species ... I will do my utmost to avoid the same thing happening to the elephants." Kruger National Park culls several hundred elephants each year to avoid overpopulation which damages the environment in the park. The national parks' management launched an international appeal for funds in September to pay for transferring excess elephants to other parks.

Tourists barred from Chinese monkey island

HONG KONG (AFP) — The spread of a strange lung disease has forced the authorities to close a monkey island in southern China's Hainan province to tourists, a report said. Ninety per cent of monkeys at the popular tourist attraction in Nanwan were found by scientists to be suffering from "pathological changes" in their lungs, the Hong Kong branch of China News Service said. The decision to close the site was to prevent the unspecified illness spreading to humans and other wildlife.

Charlie Chaplin's son plans cultural centre in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Eugene Chaplin, the businessman son of film legend Charlie Chaplin, is planning to build a cultural centre in Soweto, South Africa's largest black majority town, the economic daily Business Day said. Eugene Chaplin entertainment is planning to spend 1.6 billion rand (around \$450 million) on the centre which will include a cinema complex, multi-media hall, bookshop and cafe and restaurant. Planning work has already started on a 200 hectare (500 acre) site in the Etterhof district of Soweto, an area known for its lack of infrastructure. Mr. Chaplin, 42, sketched out the initial plans for the centre with a Soweto-based business during a visit to South Africa earlier this year. The businessman, who lives at Montreux in Switzerland in a house inherited from his father told Business Day he wanted the centre to preserve the "cultural, economic and social values my father pursued for 50 years."

Million dollar car stolen at gas station

GILLINGHAM, England (AFP) — A Renault luxury sedan with a prototype engine and a £600,000 (\$930,000) price tag was stolen at a highway gas station Tuesday night, police said Wednesday. The blue Safrane was being transported by truck from Renault headquarters in France to a test site at Peterborough, central England. "The driver was taking refreshment and the car just went," said a police spokesman. He said both car and truck were taken.